FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 APRIL 1987

Libyan Raid Anniversary

Massive rallies and marches were held on 14 and 15 April to mark the first anniversary of the U.S. raid on Libya. Tripoli television carried live relays from Banghazi, Janzur, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's house in Tripoli. Delegates to a Tripoli peace conference denounced the raid, and a Soviet representative reiterated the USSR's solidarity with Libya, JANA reported. At a march in Tripoli, several of the Libyan leader's children described the night of the bombing, the agency noted. A Tripoli television report showed Al-Qadhdhafi at the Tripoli rally, walking among crowds and shaking hands, and in a tent with a group of children.

Palestinian Talks

A "flurry of negotiations" continued in Algiers between Palestinian factions in a bid to find a compromise formula to regulate the PLO's relations with Egypt, the *Jordan Times* disclosed. The PFLP's Abu 'Ali Mustafa presented a report reviewing his faction's political stands against the PLO since 1982, the paper reported. The report included "extremely candid self-criticism" and Mustafa asked Fatah to make a similar reassessment. According to the paper's sources, the report is a "turning point" in reconciliation talks because it indicates the PFLP is ready to explore formulas for regulating ties with Cairo if there is an agreement on a basis for the PLO's political strategy. The *Jordan Times* also said the DFLP and Palestinian Communist Party are seeking an interfactional agreement — which will not be publicized — to regulate PLO relations with all Arab countries.

In reply to Mustafa's address, Fatah's Salah Khalaf conceded that his group's assessment of PLO political moves "have not been right all the time," the paper noted. In separate interviews with *Al-Anba'*, the DFLP's Nayif Hawatimah said that the "train of unity has taken off toward its last station" and that 90 percent of the political differences have been solved, while PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir noted that the talks "made good progress." Hawatimah added that the only issue remaining concerns PLO relations with Egypt.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, Damascus radio announced. Ibrahimi declined to comment on the talks but according to official sources cited by Paris Radio Monte Carlo, one of the main aims of his visit is to discuss the Palestinian dialogue taking place in Algiers.

Iran-Iraq War

Iran continued the Fath-5 guerilla offensive inside Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province, claiming to have killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqis in the operations, Tehran radio reported. Many heights and towns were liberated and Iraqi bases destroyed, the radio noted. An Iraqi military spokesman, however, denied reports of battles in northern Iraq, maintaining that "what is happening are some minor acts by saboteurs," WAKH reported.

Iran

Gulf Shipping — A Foreign Ministry spokesman described as "surprising" reports that in response to a Kuwaiti request the USSR will lease its tankers to carry oil in the Gulf and provide a naval escort, IRNA reported. The spokesman told the agency that some countries are making moves which will lead to the presence of superpowers in the region, exacerbating tension and resulting in a "very dangerous situation."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview — Referring to hostage-taking in Lebanon, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told *Keyhan* that if the United States returns Iranian property and money it is holding, "we in turn will help you in Lebanon." In an exclusive interview with the paper, the Majlis speaker said Iran holds the United States responsible for actions by the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in Iran and if the United States used its influence to stop the group, then it "might expect us to stop the groups in Lebanon." He also reiterated that Iran and the United States can have ordinary relations once Iran is sure there is no U.S. threat against the Islamic revolution.

Israel

In continued disturbances in the Gaza strip, two Rafah residents were wounded by IDF soldiers who fired shots to disperse a demonstration, Jerusalem radio reported. A Katyusha rocket landed in a Galilee settlement injuring one person, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Israeli aircraft staged a mock raid on Sidon and the camps on 15 April, Beirut radio reported. Israeli boats off the coast south of Beirut shelled an area east of Tyre, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted. Near Tripoli, three Syrian soldiers were killed and one was injured when their vehicle was ambushed and a car bomb exploded in East Beirut killing one person, the radio reported.

Egypt

Military Agreement — The USSR and Egypt have decided to resume military cooperation, Beirut radio reported, citing a news conference by the Soviet envoy in Cairo. According to the agreement, the USSR will supply spare parts for Soviet weapons the Egyptian Army now possesses, the radio said.

New Air Force Officials — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has appointed Major General Muhammad 'Ala' al-Din

Barakat as Air Force commander and Major General Ahmad Nasr as Air Force chief of staff, MENA announced.

DRA-USSR

Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, held talks with Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Economic Relations, Kabul radio reported. Katushev is leading a "high-ranking" Soviet delegation in the DRA for an official working visit, the radio added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 073 *16 April 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Hani al-Hasan on Conference, PLO-Egypt Relations *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 6 Apr]* ..... A 1

EGYPT

New Air Force Commander, Chief of Staff Named ..... D 1
Paper Cites Foreign Minister's PRAVDA Interview *[AL-AHRAM 9 Apr]* ..... D 1
Beirut Reports USSR To Supply Military Spare Parts ..... D 2
Abu Ghazalah Interviewed on Military Issues *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 13 Apr]* ..... D 2

IRAQ

Communique No 2,642 Details 14-15 Apr Combat ..... E 1
WAKH: Spokesman Denies Iranian Battle Claims ..... E 1

JORDAN

Al-Rifa'i Returns From U.S., UK Talks 15 Apr ..... F 1
Makes Arrival Statement in Amman ..... F 1
Daily Says U.S. Position Improved *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Apr]* ..... F 1
ROK Parliamentary Delegation Starts 5-Day Visit ..... F 1
Arrives in Amman 13 Apr *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Apr]* ..... F 1
Confers With Al-Fayiz 13 Apr ..... F 2
Meets With Al-Lawzi 14 Apr ..... F 2
Dudin Meets With French Cooperation Official ..... F 3

LEBANON

Sham'un Says Cabinet Meeting Scheduled 'Next Week' *[RFL]* ..... G 1
Al-Husayni Meets Karami ..... G 1
Front Urges Emergency Cabinet Economic Meeting *[RFL]* ..... G 1
Israelis Shell Villages in South, Search Houses ..... G 1
3 Syrians Killed in Ambush Near Tripoli Refinery *[RFL]* ..... G 1

SYRIA

Al-Asad Accepts USSR Invitation for April Visit ..... H 1
Party Official on U.S. 'Failed Aggression' *[JANA]* ..... H 1
Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit ..... H 1
Met by Al-Shar' ..... H 1
Meets Al-Asad ..... H 1
Further on Talks, Italian Aid *[Monte Carlo]* ..... H 1

ISRAEL

Shamir Says Government Studying Syrian Moves ..... I 1
Peres, Shamir Meet; Conference Dispute Continues *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 15 Apr]* ..... I 1
Katyusha Attack Injures Galilee Resident ..... I 1
General Levi Discusses Response to Disturbances ..... I 1
Two Rafah Residents Wounded by IDF Gunfire ..... I 1
Arab Student Shot, Wounded in Qiryat Arba' ..... I 1

NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO

King Hassan II Interview With Europe 1 Press Club ..... Q 1

SUDAN

AL-USBU' Reports 16 Apr 'Aborted' Coup Attempt *[16 Apr]* ..... Q 9

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Greets Hungary on 42d National Day ..... R 1
EPLF Claims 117 Government Troops Killed 6 Apr *[Voice of Broad Masses]* ..... R 1

KENYA

Uganda's Museveni Urged To Negotiate With Rebels *[DAILY NATION 15 Apr]* ..... R 1
TIMES Cites Human Rights Record *[15 Apr]* ..... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

Zairian Foreign Affairs Secretary Arrives ..... S 1
Met by Korom ..... S 1
Delivers Message From Mobutu ..... S 1

GABON

Ex-GUNT Head Goukouni Oueddei Arrives 15 Apr ..... S 1

ZAIRE

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Soviet Military Team Visits Defense Staff ..... T 1
Soviet Trade Union Group Donates Equipment ..... T 1

BURKINA FASO

Pro-Libyan Marches Mark U.S. Raid Anniversary *[AFP]* ..... T 1
Radio Recalls Air Raid ..... T 1

GHANA

Solidarity With Libya Against U.S. Raids Noted ..... T 2
Radio Commentary ..... T 2

SENEGAL

Assembly Considers Bill To Dismiss Police ..... T 3

SIERRA LEONE

Last Two Coup Plotters Arrested in Sulima *[AFP]* ..... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Van Dunem Briefs Envoys on Possible U.S. Talks ..... U 1
Communique Outlines Conditions ..... U 1
Dos Santos Links Cuban Withdrawal, Namibia ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

U.S. Congress Delegation Arrives on Visit ..... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Arson Attacks Strand Railway Commuters ..... U 2
Johannesburg-Soweto Restored ..... U 2
Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems ..... U 3
16 Apr Press Review ..... U 3

Hani al-Hasan on Conference, PLO-Egypt Relations

JN091959 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Apr 87
pp 22, 23

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member, by Yahya Hamzah, Muhammad Khalid Qatamah, Rashad Abu Dawud, and Ribhi al-Asmar on 3 April; place not given]

[Text] *Al-Anba'*: In the recent remarks by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, we note a U.S. inclination — which may not be official but which represents something in the United States or at least in the Republican [as published] Party — toward the international conference and recognition of a Palestinian state. Carter also said he met with Palestinian parties in Cairo. Is that true?

Al-Hasan: There is no doubt Carter's tour is not official, but we can say it is both official and unofficial for he said he will submit a report to the White House in which he will discuss all his views and ideas. There is an opportunity at present for an international conference. I recall a few years ago I said that 1985 will see the beginning of international detente. International detente means that if the big powers agree then the small powers must be subjected to the balance of power: The new world order is either a continuation of the order imposed at the Yalta agreements in 1945 or an order with a new blueprint which does not involve many essential changes because change has already occurred in Vietnam and Laos. There is a discussion over the line [separating spheres of influence] in Laos and not in Cambodia. There is also a discussion on the map of the Middle East including the Palestinian state.

We have a Soviet policy which seeks to reduce arms, spare the world the threat of nuclear war, and provide financial resources to develop the economies of socialist countries and a U.S. equation which seeks to solve regional issues in accordance with the concept of restoring U.S. hegemony. The two giants have reached an advanced level of understanding following the Reykjavik summit, the Soviet offer to reduce medium-range missiles, the zero option, and the important progress made by the talks on Afghanistan, for only a few points remain with regard to the Afghan issue, and these points are not insoluble.

There is also the meeting of the five great powers at the UN Security Council every 10 days during which the Iraq-Iran war is discussed. On 7 March a discussion on ways to end the war was begun. On 17 March a meeting was held between Michael Armacost, under secretary for political affairs of the U.S. State Department, and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, during which they discussed the Middle East question in detail.

In view of the above, we believe that all regional issues were put on the discussion table as a prelude to an attempt to reach agreement on these issues. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Moscow should be viewed in such a context, for Thatcher represents the European view that fears agreement on medium-range weapons because Europe believes that it is the nuclear balance that has protected it so far and that it will not be protected if such a nuclear balance is lost, except for one case and that is if conventional weapons are reduced.

Carter's visit to the area should also be viewed within such a context. The visit prepares for the forthcoming meeting on 16 April between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze, particularly since Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i are scheduled to visit Washington. All this is to draw up a visualization of what the U.S. Administration calls comprehensive talks, a visualization which Shultz will convey to Shevardnadze on 16 April. Consequently, Carter's visit was important in that regard. Carter was anxious to meet with a number of Palestinians within the occupied territory and outside it. It was reported that I met with him, but the fact is that circumstances did not allow such a meeting to take place. I would be glad to meet with the former U.S. President at any time in the future if the opportunity arises.

Al-Anba': Was such a meeting arranged?

Al-Hasan: There were attempts by Egypt but there were difficulties in the timing as the idea came late. Carter met in Cairo with Palestinian figures and not with PLO officials.

Al-Anba': Yasir 'Arafat has said he accepts Palestinian participation in the international conference within an Arab delegation. In your opinion, what countries could be part of this delegation? Will Syria and Egypt be part of this delegation? Who will this joint delegation be composed of, knowing this proposal was made earlier?

Al-Hasan: When the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was signed in 1985, its original text stated: The international conference will be attended by a joint Arab delegation. Later, the term joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was introduced because we feared if we only mentioned "a joint Arab delegation" all of the other sides would not accept and this would consequently affect the mechanism of the agreement. Therefore, the term joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was introduced on the basis that if there were a joint Arab delegation, then this would be the most ideal situation. By this statement brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] meant there will be a joint Arab delegation. Undoubtedly, Syria will be a basic partner in any political move or international conference if it wants to participate. We know that Syria is a basic factor in political or military operations. We also know that it is impossible to ignore Egypt in any international equation because Eastern Europe does not object to Egypt's [participation], while Western Europe and the United States welcome Egypt. We hope that such an Arab delegation will include all Arab parties concerned with the issue. They are, of course: the PLO, Syria, Egypt and perhaps Lebanon, if it is to be included in the issue.

This is not a routine issue. There are currently discussions on how the conference will function. We, the PLO, prefer that the committees to be formed be issues committees rather than geography committees. If issues committees are formed, we could, for instance, discuss the issue of Israel's withdrawal. In this case the Jordanian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Lebanese, and Syrian sides could all discuss [Israel's] withdrawal from these territories. The

United States and Israel insist that the committees formed must be geography committees so that the Golan issue, for instance, can be discussed between Syria and Israel, and the Lebanese issue can be discussed between Lebanon and Israel. As for the West Bank issue, then will it be discussed with the Palestinians and the Jordanians or with the Palestinians alone? Therefore, the dispute over the form of Palestinian representation has an effect on the course of the negotiation scheduled to take place at the international conference.

Al-Anba': It is clear from your comments that Carter's tour has special importance with regard to content and timing. Many statements have been attributed to Carter among which is a statement that during his meetings with Palestinian figures he learned that 'Arafat is ready to recognize Israel in return for the convening of an international conference. Does this mean open recognition or implicit recognition within the framework of Resolution 242? How true is this statement? The second point is when they leave office, U.S. presidents make statements different from those they made while still in office. In the first statement he made, Carter expressed his conviction about the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. In his statements published by *Al-Anba'*, he accepted the establishment of a Palestinian state. To what extent does Carter express the views of the current U.S. Administration with regard to the aforementioned points?

Al-Hasan: Carter based [his statement] on brother Abu 'Ammar's statement to *Reuter* supporting the idea of forming a joint Arab delegation. Brother Abu 'Ammar did not make a statement linking Palestinian recognition of Israel to the form of the Palestinian representation. We cannot discuss details with any American as long as these views are not official. We have become experts with regard to the method to be adopted in dealing with the United States. I recall that during the negotiations we held with Philip Habib in Lebanon through the Lebanese Government, he clearly explained what he wanted from us but did not explain what he would give us. This means that upon implementation he would take what belonged to him after having clearly indicated it in the agreement, and then interpret what had been agreed upon between us.

I do not want to give too much importance to Carter's visit or to the statements he made during this tour, with the exception of his visit to Syria. I believe the primary objective of his tour was to hold talks with the Syrians. Our Egyptian brothers, given their long experience, knew what impact the statements of a man as important as Carter would have on U.S. public opinion. The importance of his statements will be measured by how much he succeeds in influencing U.S. public opinion. I give more importance to the 17 March meeting between Armacost and Polyakov because there lies the real stand. There are two important points in Carter's tour: The first is that if a democratic president assumes the presidency in the next stage, Carter will undoubtedly play a basic role in the definition of the Democratic Party's policy on the Middle East. This is an important issue. The second point is that following the appointment of National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci and White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, the White House seems to have become divided on the Palestinian question. Some have come to realize that henceforth the Palestinian issue cannot be ignored. Therefore, many voices will be raised to prepare U.S. public opinion for this reality. I consider Carter one of the officials who replied to the question Paul Findley posed in his book "Those Who Dare To Speak." Carter decided to say: I am from the school which dares to speak. Thus, he spoke about the Palestinian state and the Palestinian homeland.

Al-Anba': We recently interviewed Carlucci's assistant Robert Oakley. In that interview, there were many changes in the White House's policy for redressing its state of affairs. He also blamed the Palestinians for their hesitant stands in view of the intra-Palestinian differences which makes them incapable of adopting any stand. He said that for this reason they should not participate in the international conference. What do you have to say to this?

Al-Hasan: Personally, I cannot say that a change has taken place within the U.S. Administration. All I can say is that differences in opinion have started to emerge, for example on Iraq. As you know, it has been decided on the level of the Western world to support Iran in the war, starting with McFarlane's visit to Tehran. The end of last March was set for this purpose and Iran called it the year of decisiveness. They imagined thatthey would be able to achieve this.

Nowadays, some voices are calling for a reassessment of this policy. The information we have says that Howard Baker is one of those White House staffers who is calling for such a reassessment. Of course, we do not know what the outcome of such a reassessment will be. The same thing applies to the Palestinian question. There are many opinions on this issue. But to say that the Palestinians are hesitant is something which applies to the U.S. Administration itself. The Palestinians never hesitate. We know that armed struggle sows and that political struggle reaps. We also know that after 23 years and in light of the existence of a trend toward international detente, if we do not reap results during this international detente, we will have to wait another 10 or 15 years. We are conscious of the nature of these changes. However, the problem is that the United States always acts as if it has succeeded in holding us by the throat. Then, they later discover this is not true and retract their stands. Has the United States ever put forth an initiative that acknowledged the minimum rights of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people rejected it or declined to respond to such an initiative? They have put forth Reagan's initiative which does not contain the minimum Palestinian rights. We did not stop at this initiative but replied to them with the Fes initiative which was unanimously adopted by the Arabs. Arab delegations were formed to convey this initiative to the world. The first provision of the Fes initiative called for the need for Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories that were occupied in 1967. This provision demarcated borders and defined recognition.

The United States is the one which hesitates in adopting stands and settling issues because it is carrying out a collusion for regaining its control of the region. It does not want a solution through which it will respect the people in the region. It wants a solution through which it will subjugate the people in the region. The Palestinians are not willing to be part of this equation. We did not launch our revolution to lose what remains of the Palestinian cause. For example, they ask us to recognize Resolution 242. The word Palestine is not mentioned, even once, in this resolution. Even when they discuss refugees they do not refer to

Palestinian refugees. For this reason, no Palestinian official can agree to recognize Resolution 242 unless the expression of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is added to this resolution.

Al-Anba': When do you think an international conference will be held, if at all? How do you account for Washington's failure to say anything about the proposed conference since Shamir's Washington visit? We understand from your comments that the Palestinians have learned not to place too much trust in the Americans. This being the case, and given U.S. unquestionable support for Israel, what is the state of PLO relations with the other world power influential in international politics, namely the USSR? How far does the Soviet Union support PLO representation of Palestinian people?

Al-Hasan: Only the United States and the Soviet Union have the answer to the chances for and date of the proposed international conference. A decision on that is not for us — the local powers — to make. The conference will not only address the Mideast issue. International conferences are scheduled to be held to sign agreements that have crystallized with the major powers. These fall into two categories: The Soviet Union is interested in an arms limitation agreement, the United States in an agreement on regional issues. There will be balanced American and Soviet positions on disarmament. The two superpowers will also work out settlements, not on each issue individually but rather through package deals. Only when conditions between the two giants are ripe for such equations will we get closer to an international conference. For instance, several aspects of an international conference were discussed in Moscow on 17 March. In addition to Palestinian representation, the conference's terms of reference are still to be worked out. The Americans will not commit themselves on the conference's terms of reference until the Soviets have spelled out their position on Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Palestinian representation. If the Soviet Union committed itself we would go straight to the conference. The United States wants to keep the Soviet Union out of the Middle East, Yalta-style that is. As far as the United States is concerned the Middle East belongs in the West's sphere of influence. Only after the United States and the Soviet Union have reached agreement on such issues as Cambodia and Vietnam, where the Soviets wield a very strong influence, will Washington allow Moscow to be involved in a Mideast solution. For the moment superpower rivalry in the Pacific outweighs the Mideast dispute.

Al-Anba': Are you saying the price will be the Palestinian cause?

Al-Hasan: Here I would tell the Palestinian people what Che Guevara said: "Go through the mountains and wait for the moment when the unique becomes common." The trouble with us — people with limited resources — is that we live by our blood. The trouble with us is that only out of ruin can we achieve victories. If we are to rise from the wreckage and be victorious, we must be strong. In order for us to be involved in any change and not lose our way, we must make sure we are there when the unique moment arrives. If we do not rely on ourselves by being in the right place at the right time and with the right force when the unique becomes common, we will be victims as we were in 1945 because Israel was created then rather than in 1948. It took the 3-year interval to enforce the international resolution that had been agreed upon. If it had not been for the international resolution Israel would not have been born.

Al-Anba': It has been said that the great make opportunities rather than wait to take them, which contradicts what you cited about waiting for the unqiue to become common. Palestinians everywhere, most of all in Lebanon, are suffering. From your comments the proposed international conference seems very remote indeed. Doesn't the PLO fear that the buildup suffering could affect the confidence of the Palestinians in it?

Al-Hasan: I beg to differ: There is no such thing in history as an opportunity being made by the great. The case may hold true in inventions and the world of finance. In the historical context, you find yourself a place in the stream of history. Your task as a leadership may be summarized in two points: first, to cut the pregnancy short since you are not responsible for its occurrence; you are dealing with an issue that has contradictions on the ground which means that you neither import nor create a state of affairs. You devise a realistic solution based on security considerations. Against this kind of background, you have a two-pronged mission: to cut the pregnancy short; for instance your enemy can live 50, 30, or 20 years. Such are the elements that can be brought under your control.

Second, when one sees that events are proceeding in a certain direction in light of the many negative contradictions on the ground, one must interfere to change this direction but not arbitrarily because there are many turning points in history. For example, the international conference is one of the turning points in our history at this stage. If the international conference takes place, one can steer the cause toward a direction that will abridge the pregnant period and create a new reality. From this premise, the international conference seems to be close and remote at the same time. It is subject to the superpowers will. However, we learned something from the 1945 experience. There were two men in the same period. A man called Ho Chi Minh and another called Haj Amin al-Husayni. In 1936, orders were given to the comintern to halt their confrontation of colonialism and to focus their attention on confronting fascism — Hitler and his group. A man like Ho Chi Minh refused to comply and continued to confront the French. When the year 1945 arrived, Ho Chi Minh had a presence on the ground because he knew that in times of war one must not seek solutions and if international conferences are held you should be present. Therefore, he continued to fight.

In our region and when the orders were issued by the comintern to halt the fighting, those who at the time were termed leftists complied. Haj Amin al-Husayni also responded to the famous Arab statement which said: Britain, our close friend, had pledged to us that the Palestinians' rights will be secured. Ho Chi Minh who rebelled against those who asked him to keep quiet to secure his interests established northern Korea in 1945 as the first step which allowed him to liberate South Korea 30 years later, While Haj Amin al-Husayni who allowed himself to be removed as a party to the equation was lost in this equation. If in 1975 you had asked a Vietnamese military commander whether Vietnam would be liberated in 1975, he would have told you he did not know. Maybe in 1975 or 1985. The U.S. withdrawal took place in 1975 and it took place within the context of an interna-

tional agreement. I am sure that in 1974 no Vietnamese commander believed the liberation of Vietnam would take place in 1975 because had there not been a U.S. withdrawal, there would not have been an abridgment of the period of pregnancy. This makes the second part of the question more important.

Al-Anba': Is the PLO now closer to Ho Chi Minh's stand or that of Al-Haj Amin al-Husayn?

Al-Hasan: We are closer to Ho Chi Minh's stand. That's why we will not appease anyone whether they are brothers or friends. In the past, they made us resort to armed struggle to satisfy this brother or friend. We now have a presence on the ground. Carter's statements are the best evidence on this. Statements issued by the EEC in its recent Brussels meeting are also proof that we have a presence on the ground. You know that the Venice Declaration mentioned the 1973 war and the oil war but not Palestinian efforts. If we want to be fair, we must say that the October 1973 war and the oil war were the ones to bring about the Venice Declaration.

European countries met often after this but refused to repeat the Venice Declaration. What made European countries repeat the Venice Declaration in the Brussels statement is that they have begun to realize that Europe must assume a role in the international conference, and because they have discovered that the Palestinian question is no longer a temporary issue but has become a cause. All this has been achieved thanks to the [Palestinian] command which has learned the lessons from the 1936 and 1945 experiences.

From here comes the importance of the second part of the previous question in that our relationship with the USSR is a strategic and not a tactical matter. Many commit a mistake when they believe that we must stand behind the USSR and wait for the miracle of the establishment of the Palestinian state with the issuance of a socialist statement. The USSR, whose viewpoint will be decisive once the conference begins, is not the one that will make us enter the international conference. Our own strength on the ground is what will make us participate in the conference. The Arab factor is also a decisive factor of our strength. We are currently holding a dialogue with the USSR, the latest being the dialogue held in Algeria in which brother Yasir 'Arafat and I participated, and during which the international conference was discussed in detail. Our meeting was preceded by the meeting between Armacost and Polyakov on 17 March where our viewpoint was explained through the USSR.

As for the question of tribulation that you mentioned, I believe our people in the occupied homeland have been politicized and organized. In spite of all the sacrifices that we have been offering, I would like to say that the problem does not lie with the people but with us as a command. You must know that any popular apathy is the responsibility of the command and not the people. We cannot avoid the issue by blaming the people who have given boundless offerings. However, our people also know that we are not a superhuman force and that we do not map out the history of the region alone.

Al-Anba': Is the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews, about which there have recently been increasing reports, part of the game of the international conference? How true are these reports?

Hani al-Hasan: The Israelis, as Bronfman, chairman of the Jewish Council in the United States, has stated, are conducting an important dialogue with the Soviet Union to ensure Israel's strategic interests in the region, including the subject of emigration. I would like to say that the next PNC should discuss three key issues: What we should do to guarantee the PLO's participation in the international conference; how we can make the conference discuss the Palestinian people's right to self- determination or their right to establish their independent state which is permitted to have a confederal union with its Arab neighbors; and the subject of emigration, which is important and basic in the future. We must not only ask the Soviet Union not to respond favorably to the emigration issue — for there are signs there is a possibility it will respond favorably to that issue — but so the Soviet Union will not respond favorably we should propose a plan linking recognition by the Gulf states of the Soviet Union to the question of controlling the emigration issue. This means we should submit counterproposals as a sort of barter because as we can see on the ground today it seems that the issue of emigration is in the stage of partial implementation and we must counter it. In this regard we are not appeasing anyone because this issue poses a danger to the Palestinian people's future. However, in order to stop emigration we should offer the Soviet Union something in return so that there will be some sort of balance in the situation.

Al-Anba': How will the PLO answer if the Soviet Union tells it that the issue of emigration is part of the international conference deal and that there are guarantees in this regard?

Hani al-Hasan: It is not wise for an official like me who is working in politics to answer a free question in this regard. But I would like to state frankly that we do not want to attend the international conference at any price. This must be made clear. We want to attend the conference in order to reap the fruit of armed struggle and also ensure the future of our coming generations. We are not searching for any role in the international conference merely for the sake of assuming a role or getting self-satisfaction. This point should also be clear.

Al-Anba': You described Soviet-Palestinian relations as strategic. According to your analysis of the international conference, the PLO places its cards in the hands of the Soviet side, but the Soviet Union may give many cards to the United States on the grounds that it was the first to call for the conference, not the Arabs. Consequently, it will lose a great deal and also demand a lot from us Arabs. This brings to mind the Soviet stand on the camps war. The Soviets can use their influence to stop this war. Nevertheless, the camps war has been going on for about 3 years. Can we obtain a Soviet response to our humble desire to end this war? And if the Soviet Union says it cannot stop the war, can we trust it to convince the United States to accept the PLO at the international conference? Moreover, if the relationship with the Soviets is strategic, the Palestinian leadership should have consulted Moscow before signing the Amman agreement which the Soviets are now calling on the PLO to abrogate.

Hani al-Hasan: By talking about Ho Chi Minh and Al-Haj Amin al-Husayni I meant to say that the Soviet Union will not impose us in the equation. This means that we should not build the Palestinian stand on the basis of entrusting the Soviet Union with the task of making us participate in the international conference. Therefore, I said that a Palestinian state will not be established with the issuance of a statement. It will be wrenched. In this regard, we should depend on ourselves, that is, on the Palestinian- Arab factor to guarantee participation in the international conference. As a Palestinian, I do not forget that an international conference was held in Geneva in 1973. I was not invited to it. The conference concluded its work and adjourned in my absence. The subject of inviting me to the conference was discussed and rejected, but the world did not change. Therefore, and so that we will not approach a new world without a Palestinian state, we must not forget that our intrinsic power and self-supported struggle are what will lead to our participation in the conference. This means that you may sometimes differ with those closest to you if you find that the strategic situation requires that you become stronger. Once we believe in this maxim — and this is a reply to the question on the Amman agreement — those who opposed this agreement and stood against us judged us according to what they perceived to be our intentions and not facts and to what may happen and not what we did. Nobody is against the provisions of the Amman agreement, which is a hundred times firmer than the Fes summit resolutions. This agreement did not mention Israel at all while the Fes summit resolutions mentioned borders and recognition in the first paragraph.

But in 1984, while the PLO was going through a deteriorating phase similar to that of a plane whose engines come to a complete halt in midair, there came the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement through which the PLO moved from the sudden landing phase to the sudden takeoff phase. And 1985 was a golden year for the Palestinian nationalist movement. In any case, the only reason which makes the Fatah Central Council review the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement is the Soviet desire — that is, to bring about Soviet-Palestinian understanding over an international conference, in view of the fact that the present stage has bypassed the Amman agreement which is not one of the international conference's documents. The famous philosopher Saint-Just, who is a master of politics, says: Death in politics is not the ordinary death that we know; rather, it is the inability to perceive new things. We are now in a new stage in which the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is not among its documents and consequently we are going to cancel the agreement to adapt to the Soviet stand and then begin drawing up important details for a future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. What will happen is that we will cancel the 1985 agreement to begin a new dialogue with Jordan to conclude an agreement in 1988.

Al-Anba': In light of these agreements which are concluded and then abrogated, one can notice, if one is to be honest and fair, that Cairo has recently been one of the Arab capitals that has been launching many moves to further the Palestine question. For example, it tried to arrange meetings between PLO officials and Carter. Cairo also maintains an effective stand on the camps war and other issues. At a time when the Egyptians under President Husni Mubarak are trying to do their utmost to promote the Palestine question, Fatah issues statements through Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad] against Egypt. Do the statements by Abu Jihad mean that there is an intention to reformulate your relationship with Egypt as there is with Jordan? Or what do these statements mean?

Hani al-Hasan: I personally do not know what Brother Abu Jihad said. What I know is that he has not made a statement on this issue. But prior to PNC sessions there is always a sort of political carnival in which differing opinions are expressed. There was a kind of attempt to use public opinion, influence things, and win this or that party over. But for Fatah, I can say: The issue of Egypt is not a topic of discussion because the PNC in its previous session adopted a decision that formulated our relationship with Egypt. The Amman agreement is different from the issue of Egypt. An agreement that was not a reflection of a resolution issued by the PNC needs to be ratified by the PNC. As for relations with Egypt, Fatah will not agree to sign any paper that undermines these relations with any organization. What we cannot prevent is seeing some people stand at the next PNC session and demand that the relationship with Egypt be discussed. And since this relationship is a reflection of a decision made at the previous PNC, a review of this relationship requires the approval of two-thirds of the PNC, which I do not believe will happen. If approval is obtained, we will be constitutionally obliged to discuss the issue, but I want to declare that Fatah has not agreed in previous dialogues to sign any paper that included statements against Egypt or even statements expressing an ambiguous stand on Egypt. And I personally believe that Egypt in President Husni Mubarak's era has honored all its commitments and pledges to the PLO: The cancellation of the second part of the Camp David accords, its refusal to take part in negotiations on autonomy, its support for the PLO, and its support for the Palestinians in their endeavors to maintain independent decisionmaking concerning the attainment of their legitimate national rights.

As we see now, Egypt has remained committed to the international conference idea, which is the antithesis of the Camp David accords. The statement issued by President Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres on the international conference means that Egypt has imposed its opinion which goes against the provisions and logic of the Camp David accords which, in turn, advocate another course for resolving the Palestine question. Today, I want to use the newspaper *Al-Anba'* to say something to President Husni Mubarak, whom we consider the president of the patriotic Egyptians, and also to the Egyptian Army which has watered the soil of Palestine and Sinai with its blood since 1948. I want to tell them that the relationship with Egypt is a PLO accomplishment for the Palestinian people because Egypt's strength bolsters the Arabs and its weakness makes them weaker.

Everybody knows that the battle for the inheritance of the Egyptian role has exhausted us as fighters for the Palestine question. Since 1978 we Palestinans have been paying the price of the attempts to inherit the Egyptian role because everybody who wants to inherit that role needs us, and to help achieve that objective we must be used [numtata]. All those who tried to inherit the Egyptian role have in turn used us, but nobody was able to fill this void. Consequently, the deliberations of the PNC will prove that it is greatly interested in maintaining the Egyptian-Palestinian relationship. We welcome relations

between Libya and the PLO, but we do not accept that such a relationship — which caused difficulties in the past — should be at the expense of our relations with Egypt. We also seriously want to have relations with Syria and we are making every effort to achieve this. However, we do not accept that such relations should be at the expense of our relations with fraternal Iraq which recently supported us in the most difficult circumstances — and not only for that reason, for we need all the Arabs and not some of them.

Al-Anba': Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has been talking about Palestinian mediation between Iraq and Libya. What are the results of that mediation?

Hani al-Hasan: Undoubtedly, the Palestinians are trying to solve all Arab differences because we must go to the forthcoming Arab summit. Without eliminating these differences, there would be no Arab solidarity. Brother Abu Jihad has been trying to arrange for Libyan-Iraqi relations. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has also exerted similar efforts to arrange for Libyan- Egyptian relations.

Al-Anba': We are speaking in Kuwait and through a Kuwaiti paper. Of course, we know Kuwait's position on the Palestinian revolution. Do you know if Kuwait is trying to solve Arab differences in order to help the Palestinian cause, and can we say that the Palestinian revolution and Kuwait have identical or similar positions?

Hani al-Hasan: Undoubtedly, the PLO welcomed the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait because a man of will, Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, would chair the summit. Although it is a tiny country, Kuwait can make its political role as large as its potential. During talks I held with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad we found out that what is more important than the similarity of views is the method we use to solve the differences. The Arab problems have shown Kissinger's success in making the Arabs fight one another. After 1973, Kissinger said: "If the Arabs do not fight one another, they will fight Israel. Therefore, they must be made to fight one another." As a result of this policy, things have become so complicated that they need to be dealt with in a certain way. I believe that through its chairmanship of the Islamic conference and its role in the GCC, Kuwait will play an important role in solving a number of basic Arab problems, especially since it maintains good relations with Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, and the Palestinians. I am also pleased with Kuwait's positive views on Egypt. This is important. Frankly, the Palestinians also appreciate Kuwait — amir, government, and people — for having the largest Palestinian community after Palestine and Jordan. In the past 30 years, Kuwait has done a lot for the Palestinian community. Therefore, we welcome and even ask Kuwait to take action, and we affirm to it that the PLO will closely cooperate with it in all areas. We are confident that Kuwait can do a lot.

Al-Anba': You said that the international conference is viewed as an annulment of the second part of the Camp David accords, while U.S. and Israeli statements stress it is a step toward resuming Camp David or direct negotiations. Will this conceptual disagreement affect the conference's content and powers?

Hani al-Hasan: I said that the international conference is important. A few international conferences further the goals. So we must specify which conference furthers the goals. Egypt acted against the second part of Camp David when it stopped the autonomy talks, when it received 'Arafat, and when it announced its recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

All these steps are seen as a rejection of the second part of Camp David. Egypt's approval of an international conference is the beginning of a rejection of the formula proposed by the second part of Camp David which says: "The Jordanians, Palestinians, and Americans will meet to discuss the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a 5-year transitional period." Now other parties such as the Soviet Union and the Europeans are involved. The second point is that the Egyptians do not agree with the Israelis on the use of the word: "Palestinians". The Egyptians adhere to the PLO. Therefore, there was nothing in the Mubarak-Peres statement about Palestinian representation because of a difference of views. If they had agreed on this point, they would have said something about it. Now how are the Israelis trying to philosophize things? Metternich said:"Politics is but a play, and first of all we must make sure that the curtain has gone up, that the parties concerned have attended, and that the play has a positive content." Israel and Egypt's approval of the international conference facilitates matters, but there are still problems such as discussion of whether the concerned sides have attended and whether the conference has a positive content. Actually, I believe that Metternich's words apply to what we are experiencing. If the second part of the Camp David accords has not been canceled, and I admit that it has not been canceled, then what is important is that President Husni Mubarak has demonstrated courage since he came to office by moving in this direction. He proved every day that he was doing his best to move in this direction. This is a rocky road. I support the *Al-Anba'* editorial of 30 March which was entitled: All of Us Are Making Demands on Egypt, But Who Is Making Demands on the Arabs?

Egypt's concerns are not only Palestinian. It has endless economic concerns, population growth concerns, etc . One must not be selfish by demanding that Egypt commit suicide for the sake of others.

Al-Anba': In an interview with Qatar radio a few days ago, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, demanded that Egypt close the Israeli Embassy. It is capable of doing so. We know this. Is this the view of the PLO and Fatah?

Al-Hasan: We all hope that this will take place. Who does not weep when seeing "El Al" planes touching down and taking off at Cairo airport? The first to weep are the great sons of Egypt. Expressing such views on the radio will not lead to the closing of the Israeli Embassy in great and dear Egypt. We revolutionaries belive that our work can only be useful when it yields positive results. Anything that does not yield positive results in the field of struggle is useless. I have no idea about Brother Abu Iyad's statement. Political officials and political leaderships are required to do whatever yields positive results. I am sure that the first person wishing the removal of the Israeli Embassy is President Husni Mubarak. The question that arises is: How will this

happen? The Egyptian forces must express their views on this subject. Moreover, this subject must obtain Palestinian and Arab backing. The second part of the Camp David accords, for instance, is a Palestinian concern. I must express my view in this regard and obtain Egyptian and Arab support. As for solely Egyptian issues, the Egyptians must express their views and get Palestinain and Arab support.

Al-Anba': As the PNC is about to convene soon, it is said that there are differences within the Fatah Movement about its convocation.

Al-Hasan: There are no differences within the Fatah Movement over the convocation of the PNC or the issues it will discuss. We have clear views. I believe that what I expressed today is in agreement with Fatah's policy. There are no differences over the PNC. But as a movement, Fatah must participate in this battle to determine the future of the Palestinian people. It is not always possible to attain unified positions within the movement when discussing views. On the PNC there is always a united opinion. We do not have problems, but before the PNC meets there is a political carnival.

New Air Force Commander, Chief of Staff Named

NC151653 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a decree appointing Major General Muhammad 'Ala' al-Din Barakat Air Force commander and Major General Ahmad Nasr Air Force chief of staff. Maj Gen Barakat will replace Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi, who was appointed ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, effective today.

Maj Gen Barakat graduated from the Air Force Academy as a fighter pilot in February 1956. He has been assigned to several leading posts and was appointed Air Force chief of staff in November 1985. Maj Gen Barakat took part in the 1956 war and the 1973 war, during which he was in charge of fighter bomber operations. Maj Gen Barakat has flown several Western and East-bloc jets and still puts in flying time.

He is a graduate of the Egyptian Command and Staff College and the War College of the Higher Military Academy. He obtained a masters degree in military studies and received scholarships in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. He has also received several medals.

Maj Gen Ahmad Nasr, the new chief of staff of the Air Force, was born in March 1943. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in February 1956, when he joined the Air Force service and took part in the wars in 1956, 1967, and 1973, when he was in command of fighter planes. He is a graduate of the Staff College in the Soviet Union and has been awarded several medals. He has worked as fighter planes commander, military attache in Tehran, commander of the Cairo West Air Base, and chief of Air Force Operations.

Paper Cites Foreign Minister's PRAVDA Interview

JN111940 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] The political and media indicators coming from the Soviet capital show increased interest in what is taking place in the Egyptian and Arab arena. This is confirmed by the interview held by a correspondent of the newspaper *Pravda*, organ of the ruling CPSU Central Committee, with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on several international issues. The "quality" and "peculiarity" of the questions explain the prospects for future Egyptian-Soviet relations. As there might be no space to publish the whole interview, which is the first of its kind with an Egyptian official in many years, it will suffice to publish two questions and their replies.

The first question is: It is impossible to improve the international situation without settling local crises, foremost among them the Middle East crisis and the Iraq-Iran war, which endanger peace in the whole world. What, in your opinion, are the best ways to resolve these crises?

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: There is no doubt that the continuation of the Middle East problem and the exacerbation of the volatile situation in the Gulf as a result of the continuing armed dispute between Iraq and Iran shake security and stability in the entire region and exhaust its peoples' energies and resources. They also greatly affect world peace and stability.

Egypt's experience in waging the two battles of war and peace consolidate our conviction that dialogue and negotiations are the best way to resolve disputes and conflicts peacefully on just and lasting bases according to international legal norms, the UN Charter, and international law. Regarding the Middle East conflict, we believe that the issue of the Palestinian people is the crux of this conflict and that the key to the comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for which we are working lies in the implementation of the UN resolutions which call for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of all the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

We also have an increasing conviction that holding an international peace conference is the practical way being proposed as a framework for negotiations in which all parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, will participate. We believe that the Security Council should play a role in preparing well for the conference as the body in charge of preserving world peace and security. Egypt is doing its utmost to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for holding the international conference and both unifying and strengthening the Arab and Palestinian stand. Within this framework we believe cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO are vital and indispensable.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran conflict, Egypt believes in the need to immediately stop the fighting and reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict within the framework of mutual respect for the principles of international law and the UN Charter. We welcome Iraq's sincere desire to end the bloody conflict, its numerous peace initiatives, and its response to the international efforts to establish peace. We hope that this positive stand by Iraq will be reciprocated by Iran. I would like to express our appreciation of the positive Soviet stand we note on holding the international conference and promoting the Middle East peace process, and its desire to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war. We welcome and encourage this. There is, undoubtedly, a closeness of views between us and the Soviet Union on these aims, and we are eager to continue bilateral contacts and consultations in the interest of peace in our region and the whole world.

Question: During 1986 there was a positive development of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Does this progress mean that the two countries' stands on the most important international issues are close or in agreement? What, in your opinion, are the development prospects for Egyptian-Soviet relations?

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: Relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union are deep-rooted and are developing in a good and satisfactory manner in the interest of the two countries. There is a mutual understanding and harmony in many of the two countries' stands on various international issues. There is also a joint desire to work for peace and stability in the region and the world. We appreciate the role and weight of the Soviet Union as a

superpower that is responsible for maintaining world peace. We also feel that the Soveit Union also appreciates Egypt's role and weight in its capacity as a pioneering state in the Nonaligned Movement and within the Arab, Islamic, and African framework. Therefore, the two sides are clearly eager to exchange views and hold consultations on issues of common concern.

As I have said, we welcome the current development of Egyptian-Soviet relations, and we try to promote them within the framework of the nonaligned policy by which Egypt abides and out of our desire to extend a hand of friendship and cooperation to all states and peoples on the basis of mutual respect and joint interest.

Beirut Reports USSR To Supply Military Spare Parts

NC160732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] It has been announced in Cairo that Egypt and the USSR have decided to resume military cooperation. This was disclosed during the news conference held by the Soviet ambassador to Egypt in Cairo yesterday. He noted that, according to this cooperation agreement, the USSR will supply spare parts for the Soviet weapons the Egyptian Armed Forces now possess. The ambassador added that the Egyptian and Soviet Foreign Ministries are in constant contact with regard to the international peace conference.

Abu Ghazalah Interviewed on Military Issues

JN150638 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
13 Apr 87 p 16

[Interview with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, by unidentified AL-ITTIHAD correspondent in Cairo — date not given]

[Text] *Al-Ittihad*: How do you view the dramatic developments taking place in the region at present, and I mean the developments in the Gulf war and the heated battles on the Iraq-Iran front?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: A quick glance at the map of our region confirms the accuracy of your description "dramatic developments." Do you realize that one out of every two states in our region is embroiled in one form of conflict or another with its neighbors? That simply means that most of us prefer to resort to direct violence to achieve our objectives. The Iraq-Iran war and the conflict in Afghanistan have lasted longer than World War II.

The latest Egyptian study of the situation in the area which comprises some 25 states indicates that there are 11 armed border conflicts in the region, more than 20 military clashes and wars operations, and that the world estimates that at least three of the current conflicts in the region may lead to external military intervention if matters should take a turn for the worse.

In my view, the problem does not stem only from the collapse of the security of a region that is trying to build itself and develop the life of its peoples. The problem is deeper than that, and that is that we are leaving a new value in life for our children: the use of violence to solve problems, and that is a very grave heritage for the future.

As for the developments in the Gulf war, any student of military science in the world will come to the conclusion that the war has no purpose. States and peoples do not wage wars for the sake of war but to achieve specific objectives that politics failed to achieve by other means. After 7 years of fighting between Iraq and Iran, what is the attainable political- military objective of the war? The prevailing view is: none!

Al-Ittihad: It has been reported that there is an Egyptian military force prepared to participate in the Gulf war if there is a change in the balance of power in Iran's favor. How true is this report? To what extent can Egypt intervene in the Gulf war?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: We are holding a military conversation and therefore we must fully agree on the meaning of what we say. There are two points that should be clarified militarily:

The first is that any military force in the world acts on two levels: the first level is the size of the armed force, that is, the number of aircraft, tanks, and other weapons required for a certain task, and the type and training of combat units, and that is the task of the military. The basic approach here is that the military must appreciate and predict the form and nature of the tasks which they may be charged to implement in accordance with strategic and military scenarios.

The force is trained to implement such scenarios within the framework of the annual training plans. That means that a state cannot ask another state to assist or intervene without the necessary studies being made. That has not been done and I do not think it will be done, particularly as Egypt has always declared, through its president, that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of any other state.

The second point or level the Armed Forces deals with is how, when, and where to use these forces. This is a political popular decision in the first place, especially in a democratic country like Egypt. Within this framework the political decision takes into consideration many factors, among which are joint pan-Arab interests, regional and international commitments, factors affecting the decision to use armed force, and other available alternatives to achieve joint objectives and interests. This is so the military force will achieve the aspired positive objectives and not be an aimless military action. I repeat here that Egypt's stand is clear. It has been announced by President Mubarak on all occasions. Egypt always honors its word.

Al-Ittihad: What role can Egypt play in supporting the security of Gulf states, and when would it intervene directly alongside them, especially after having reiterated more than once that Egypt's security is part of the Gulf's security and the Gulf's security is part of Egypt's?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: We have to agree that comprehensive pan-Arab security can be achieved through political, diplomatic, economic, social, media, psychological, ideological, and military means and by skillfully combining these factors to achieve maximum security and stability. There are people who are more qualified than I am to talk about these matters. As for the military role in achieving pan-Arab security, it must be viewed more realistically. Joint, coordinated military action has many levels of cooperation in the areas of information, training, rehabilitation, supply of military demands and expertise, joint planning, and other things.

However, what is most important, despite our complete conviction in Egypt that the security of the Gulf and Egypt is indivisible, is that we are talking about sovereign countries that have their own strategic decisions. They have first the right to specify the form, type, and timing of any action, cooperation, or measure.

Al-Ittihad: Do you think Iran is able to block the Strait of Hormuz, especially after Iran's deployment of missiles on the Strait? What are your expectations of the superpowers' stands in case Iran carries out such a measure?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: Perhaps many do not know the real strategic value of the Strait of Hormuz. Before the Iraq-Iran war, one-third of the world's daily production of petroleum used to pass through the Strait. That is one-third of the life of many countries. One third of the energy of every factory, farm, and power station. One third of the energy required to produce items ranging from planes to bread in Europe, Japan, the United States, and other countries.

At the same time, one quarter of the food, industrial, and cultural imports required for life, progress, and development of the Gulf states used to pass through the Strait. The waterway in the Strait is 30-35 km long and 8- 13 km wide. In addition, water depths range between 75-200 meters in the main passage and 45-80 meters in the minor passages. When we think militarily about blocking the Strait of Hormuz we are talking about one of the three following scenarios:

1. Sinking oil tankers in the center of the Strait, thus preventing navigation as has happened in other straits;

2. Mining the passage, thus making navigation very difficult; and

3. Carrying out continuous terrorist acts to prevent navigation.

The depth of this waterway logically excludes sinking of oil tankers as a method of obstructing navigation. If Iran sinks two oil tankers at the same time it will not achieve this objective. The water currents in the Hormuz Strait are strange, unstable, and uneven, thus making it doubtful Iran would be able to close the Strait by mining it with the sophisticated sea mines it possesses.

This leaves us with the third point: recurrent terrorist attacks. This is possible but requires different war resources which are unavailable at present. That's why I rule out the possibility of Iran being able to completely close the Hormuz Strait in the foreseeable future. With respect to reports Iran has installed 12 surface-to-surface missile batteries in the Hormuz Strait, I do not believe Iran will use these missiles to close the Strait, because in this case it will expose itself to the reactions of the big powers and the entire world which have interests in the region. I also believe Iran installed these missiles just as a deterrence.

Al-Ittihad: In your opinion, how long will the Gulf war last and how can it be ended?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: If the status quo is maintained, and by this I mean the current military balance, the level of combat performance, the role of the foreign parties supplying Iran with weapons, military hardware, and information, and the trends of the political leaders in Iran, this war is expected to last for many years to come. As for ways to end it, we will have to speak then about changes and not about the status quo.

Wars usually end either by the acceptance of the parties of a political solution which Iran has been refusing, as a result of an economic and moral collapse and this is not in the offing, or as a result of a decisive military action which we could call a military victory. I would like to express some reservations on the use of the word victory because in this war there cannot be a victor and a vanquished.

I believe Iran insists on continuing this war for domestic or for political, expansionist, or hostile reasons. No one knows exactly what Iran's designs are. What is important is that all the offensives Iran has launched against Iraq have failed and the losses sustained by the Iranian side are far more than the losses Iraq has sustained. Now that Iraq's capability to repulse any Iranian offensive is indisputable, one wonders why Iran insists on prolonging the war.

Al-Ittihad: How true is the opposition paper *Al-Ahali*'s report that you told the Egyptian People's Assembly National Security Committee that the principal danger to Egypt at present comes from Israel? What is your reply to the Israeli campaign on this report?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: First, I cannot imagine where *Al-Ahali* obtained the text or the contents of what I said at the People's Assembly National Security Committee. The acknowledged custom worldwide is that when a defense minister speaks on national security affairs in parliament he does so in a closed session. It would be more useful if you asked the editor of *Al-Ahali* about his source of information.

Second, all over the world when the military defines the form and size of their Armed Forces it considers the military potential of the states in its region and not the intentions of such states, regardless of whether such intentions are brotherly, friendly, peaceful, or so on and so forth. As for the actual use of force, that is a political popular decision and not a defense minister's decision.

Third, Egypt has on every past occasion said its military strategy is a deterrent strategy, that is, that it should have the military power to persuade any party to think a thousand times before launching a military attack against us. If such an attack should occur we must have the military capability to repulse it and resolve the situation in our favor.

Fourth, without peace with Israel, how could it be possible to hold such a conversation and discuss the security of the Gulf and Egypt's role?

As for my reply to the Israeli campaign on that matter, I do not respond to attacks from here or there. We have in Egypt more important things to do than that and we are preoccupied with serious work to build Egypt's defense military capability.

Al-Ittihad: Throughout history Sinai has been the gateway of any external invasion of Egypt. Do you think the size of the Egyptian force in Egypt now — and which was restricted by the Camp David accords — is sufficient to defend Egypt at the Sinai gateway? Is the size of the force compatible with the Size of the Israeli forces which are growing in a worrying manner?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: First, the size of the Egyptian force now in Sinai is greater than any Egyptian force there at any time in the past, whether prior to or during the war with Israel. The force now in Sinai is very adequate for defending Sinai and Egypt. Any talk that the Camp David accords restricted the size of the force is not objective at all.

Second, the size of the force stationed on any border area, at times of peace, is determined by the consideration of confronting any surprise attack. At times of war between us and any neighbor, is the size of such a force appropriate for defense? Of course there will be other forces. As minister of defense I can confirm that the size of the Egyptian force in Sinai at present is appropriate and adequate for confronting any development in the situation.

Al-Ittihad: It has been recently reported that an Egyptian military delegation visited Israel. Is that true? Are there military issues between Egypt and Israel which are still outstanding?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: A committee was set up at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry mainly to resolve the Tabah problem. There is a body known as the body for liaison between Egypt and Israel to resolve problems which may arise on the border between the two countries and to monitor the implementation of agreements concluded on such matters. The body is headed by an officer whose function is to give military advice within the Foreign Ministry committee. Consequently, he travels to Israel for the purpose. However, there is no military delegation.

With respect to pending military matters between us and Israel, we have no pending military matters with the exception of Tabah. I do not consider the Tabah problem as a military problem inasmuch as it is a political problem because it has now been referred to international arbitration. Reports that there are Israeli forces in Tabah are not true. We do not have any other military problems with Israel.

Al-Ittihad: Recent press reports say you declined an invitation to visit Israel. How true are these reports?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: I have never received an invitation to visit Israel, and I have not visited Israel at any time. When invitations are extended to visit a country, these invitations are officially announced. The papers which reported this are not official.

Al-Ittihad: Recently, there was talks about a reduction in the Egyptian Armed Forces after the war between Egypt and Israel ended and the Camp David accords were concluded. What do you have to say about this?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: It is true there have been reductions, but let me clarify to you the state of affairs from a military point of view. The efficiency of any armed forces depends on one thing — their combat readiness and ability to carry out military tasks assigned to them. There are two schools of military thought. The first school favors quantity and says the more tanks, soldiers, aircraft, and guns the more combat ability is enhanced. The second school favors quality and pays attention to the human factor and to the kinds of weapons. This school of thought is based on selecting the perfect soldier and the best and most sophisticated weapons and military hardware.

Egypt has chosen the second school to develop the Armed Forces to the highest possible degree and to enable Egypt to shift from a war economy depending on hundreds of thousands of men under arms to a peacetime economy reducing expenditures on this huge number of men under arms while maintaining defensive combat capabilities.

Within this context, the curriculum in Egyptian military academies have been developed whereby the officer cadet now graduates with a bachelor degree in engineering in addition to a bachelor degree in military science. This will enhance the education of the officers who are the leaders of the future.

Al-Ittihad: is it true you refused to meet with the crew of the Libyan military plane who sought political asylum in Egypt and why?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: The landing of the Libyan military plane and its crew's request for political asylum were political and military actions at the same time. As part of my responsibilities as defense minister, I and my colleagues in the Armed Forces took all the necessary measures regarding the military aspect of this operation, including my meeting with the Libyan officers who asked for political asylum in Egypt. As for the decision to grant them asylum, it was a political decision.

Al-Ittihad: What is your assessment of the dimensions of the Libyan intervention in Chad and what about the reports Libyan forces have reached Sudan's borders?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: From a purely strategic and military premise I would like to say the Libyan military intervention is primarily directed against the brothers in the Gulf region. If we study the timing and escalation of Libyan military operations in Chad, we will find that, militarily, the intervention has opened up a new front for the Arabs.

While the Iraqi-Iranian war has escalated through the recurrent Iranian offensives and the recent Karbala' offensive and while Gulf Arab countries initiated a dialogue among themselves to study the consequences of a collapse of the state of affairs in the Gulf, we suddenly find that half the Arabs have turned their

attention to what Libya is doing in Chad, to discussing the dimensions of the Libyan move, and to see which party will be affected or threatened. The Arabs' attention was thus divided and their dialogue foundered.

As for the entry of Libyan forces into Sudan, the Sudanese prime minister defined his country's stand on this in public statements which were carried by local and foreign news agencies.

Al-Ittihad: The Soviet Union has shown greater flexibility than the United States in settling the problem of military debts. Do you think what the Soviet and Egyptian sides have agreed upon regarding debts constitutes a development in relations between Cairo and Moscow? Is there at present military cooperation between the Soviet Union and Egypt?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: An agreement was reached between Moscow and Cairo on paying Egyptian debts accrued in the past 25 years and on cancelling the interest accrued on the delay in the repayment of the debts. The terms military debts and civilian debts are inaccurate, for the debts, be they military or civilian, are in the final analysis Egypt's debts. I believe the agreement by the two sides to settle the debts problem is, of course, a good step toward improving Soviet-Egyptian relations.

As for military cooperation between us and the Soviets, there are no arms deals between us, but sometimes we used to buy some spare parts for the Soviet weapons we had in service from various East European countries. However, the Soviet Union has shown a readiness to sell spare parts for East bloc weapons if requested by Egypt.

Al-Ittihad: How do you view Egypt's relations with the United States at the present time? Was the U.S. Administration's stand on the question of Egypt's military debts the stand of a state friendly to Egypt?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: Egypt's relations with the United States are good. The fact is the Americans did not reject any of our requests. We hope these relations will improve, particularly with regard to alleviating the burden of the debts. I believe the U.S. Administration will find a solution to the problem. Talks are continuing with them on the matter.

Al-Ittihad: What is the truth about the difficulties in implementing the program to manufacture the Mirage-2000 in Egypt?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: The difficulties are connected with providing the necessary funds to continue the program with the French. As a result of our economic problems we have shelved the matter until Egypt's economic crisis eases.

Al-Ittihad: Do you believe U.S. credibility in the region was affected following the exposure of the Irangate scandal? Are the U.S. arms obtained by Iran likely to upset the military balance between Iraq and Iran?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: I believe the question should be addressed to Iraq and the Gulf states.

Al-Ittihad: How do you assess Egypt's current relations with the Gulf states, particularly Egypt's relations with the UAE?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: Egypt's relations with the Gulf states are excellent. There is great cooperation in many fields. Our relations with the UAE are more than excellent, particularly at the present time.

Al-Ittihad: What is the fate of the joint defense agreement between Egypt and Sudan, particularly following the abrogation of the integration agreement between the two countries and its replacement by the Brotherhood Charter?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has declared that the joint defense agreement is valid and has not been abrogated.

Al-Ittihad: What are the most important of Egypt's joint military industries with other countries, particularly with Eastern and Western bloc countries, at present?

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah: I defer my reply to the question until the international fair to be held in November this year. I invite the Arab brothers to visit the fair so they can see for themselves the extent of the progress in Egypt's war industry and to compare it with the products of other countries which will be exhibited at the fair alongside Egypt's products.

At present Egypt produces a great surplus of arms which have a high combat capability and at extremely competetive prices. Egypt is prepared to meet the demands of any fraternal Arab state without any political conditions attached. We hope the Arab nation will achieve self-reliance in armaments. Egypt is prepared to complete the program for the production of the Mirage-2000 in Egypt in cooperation with Arab states if they so desire.

Communique No 2,642 Details 14-15 Apr Combat

JN151651 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,642 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant forces inflicted further losses on the enemy rogues, equipment, and weapons through their heroic combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force carried out 115 combat missions against enemy positions in the operations sectors, inflicting heavy losses on enemy personnel and equipment. Our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our brave helicopters raided enemy herds and weapons emplacements, inflicting new losses on them in 100 combat missions. Our helicopters returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah attacked enemy positions and concentrations, inflicting further losses on the enemy in addition to destroying an observation tower and a number of infantry positions and damaging a tank.

4. Our units in the VII Army Corps front continued to confront the Khomeyniite forces. They destroyed a number of infantry positions and vehicles, blew up four ammunition dumps, and started fires on the enemy side.

5. A brave force from one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions in front of it, engaged the enemy rogues with all types of weapons, and managed to destroy their targets and kill or wound a number of rogues. The force returned safely to base.

6. One of our naval units monitored two enemy gunboats that tried to approach the Al-'Amiq port. Our brave naval artillery confronted them, hitting one of them. Flames were seen billowing from it, while the other gunboat fled.

7. Eight enemy personnel were killed and a shelter was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

8. An enemy patrol was attacked and destroyed and a boat was captured in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

9. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units on the warfronts and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 April 1987

WAKH: Spokesman Denies Iranian Battle Claims

JN151856 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1823 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (WAKH) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about battles in northern Iraq. He said the area is completely under the Iraqi forces' control.

The spokesman informed INA this evening that "what is happening are some minor acts by saboteurs supported by Iran on the border heights from time to time."

He said the Iraqi forces and national defense regiments of Kurdish citizens have confronted these acts and inflicted heavy losses in personnel and weapons on the Iranian forces.

He pointed out that these claims aim to cover up and distract attention from the heavy losses and devastating blow the Iranian forces received in the recent battle east of Al-Basrah.

Concluding, the spokesman said: The Iranians and their agents are accustomed to launching such lies from time to time, while the situation in fact reflects absolute control by the Iraqi forces along Iraq's northern border and all along the battlefronts.

Al-Rifa'i Returns From U.S., UK Talks 15 Apr

Makes Arrival Statement in Amman

JN151802 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman from London today, having taken part in His Majesty King Husayn's talks with senior British Officials. Earlier, the prime minister visited Washington and together with the foreign minister held talks with U.S. officials.

General Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, returned aboard the same aircraft. They were received by the deputy prime minister, ministers, and senior civilian and military officials. Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i made the following statement upon his return:

[Begin Al-Rifa'i recording] The visit the foreign minister and I made to Washington was an exploratory visit. We met with the new White House officials, the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, and members of the Senate and House of Representatives. We conveyed the Arab stand to all of them. We emphasized to them that a settlement can be achieved only through an international conference whereby the UN secretary general calls for the conference in which the permanent member states of the Security Council as well as all the parties to the dispute will participate. We informed them that such a Jordanian-Arab stand is not a tactical stand but is the minimum requirement to begin activating the peace process.

We have sensed a development in the U.S. stand. The idea of an international conference is no longer unacceptable to the U.S. Government. Consultations with the other permanent member states of the Security Council have clearly become necessary for the U.S. Government. There is no doubt that the progress in the U.S. stand has to a large extent been influenced by the Arab diplomatic efforts, particularly the contacts held by his majesty the king, in coordination with his brothers the Arab leaders concerned, the EEC states, the Soviet Union, the Muslim states, and the nonaligned states. Such regular and intensive contacts have resulted in an almost total world consensus on the need to convene the international conference. It is not easy for any state to ignore such a reality.

I left Washington for London where I submitted a report to his majesty on the results of my visit to Washington. During his stay in London his majesty received a U.S. envoy who conveyed a message from the U.S. Government to his majesty that the U.S. Government has in fact initiated contacts with the UN secretary general as a prelude to the necessary consultations among the permanent member states of the Security Council.

His majesty also received the Soviet ambassador in London, who conveyed a message from Mr Gorbachev to his majesty on a number of topics, the most important of which is the international conference and Jordanian-Soviet coordination.

As reported, his majesty the king met with the British prime minister. They discussed the European role in the international conference.

His majesty will return to the homeland, protected by God, in a few days. His majesty was admitted to the hospital last Sunday for a minor operation on his right ear. The operation was successful, praise be to God, and he left the hospital on the following day, Monday. His majesty is now waiting for the doctors to allow him to fly, for it is known that atmospheric pressure in the plane differs from atmospheric pressure on the ground, and that affects the ears. His majesty is expected to arrive within the next few days, protected by God. [end recording]

Daily Says U.S. Position Improved

JN160741 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Persistent Efforts and Good Results"]

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i affirmed yesterday that His Majesty King Husayn received in London a U.S. envoy who told his majesty that the U.S. Administration had actually begun initial consultations with the UN secretary general to pave the way for the desired consultations among the permanent member states of the Security Council.

This tangible improvement in the U.S. position was also felt by Zayd al-Rifa'i during his visit to Washington. It became clear to him during his talks with senior officials in President Ronald Reagan's administration that the idea of an international conference was no longer rejected by the U.S. side as was the case in the past few months.

No doubt, as asserted by the prime minister, progress in the U.S. position has come as a result of Arab diplomatic efforts, especially those exerted by His Majesty King Husayn in coordination with the brother Arabs concerned, the EC, the USSR, the Islamic states, and the nonaligned states.

All the contacts made during that long period and the Jordanian and Arab efforts which have been relentlessly exerted have produced this unprecedented unanimity and this overwhelming support for an international conference, making it difficult for any state to oppose the idea of a conference or ignore this reality.

Thus, Jordan can view the outcome of its diplomatic efforts with complete satisfaction. An international conference now constitutes the minimum requirement for beginning the peace process and the proposed negotiation formula has become the only practical option for acheiving just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

ROK Parliamentary Delegation Starts 5-Day Visit

Arrives in Amman 13 Apr

JN131044 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — A South Korean parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a five-day visit to Jordan and talks with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

The six-member delegation is led by Mr. Kwak Chong-chol, who is also member of the Korean-Jordanian Friendship Society. Mr. Kwak said in an arrival statement that the aim of his visit was to help promote parliamentary relations and coordination between Jordan and South Korea.

Noting with satisfaction the fruitful economic and trade relations between the two countries, Mr. Kwak said that the South Korean government and people look forward to even stronger mutual ties. The people of South Korea look with respect to His Majesty King Husayn's endeavours for achieving prosperity for his country, Mr. Kwak added.

He said that South Korea supports King Husayn's call for convening an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue and Jordan's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. South Korea also looks forward to Jordan's participation in the Seoul Olympic games which offer a good chance for the participation of all world nations, he continued.

The Korean parliamentarians are in Jordan upon the invitation of Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament 'Akif al-Fayiz.

During their visit to Jordan Mr. Kwak and his delegation will meet with Mr. Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and Mr. al-Fayiz and Parliament members to discuss developments in the Middle East and Jordanian-South Korean parliamentary cooperation.

The delegation will also visit tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Mr. Rizq al-Batayinah, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's foreign relations committee, and other members of Parliament as well as South Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Pak Tong-sun greeted the delegation upon their arrival at the Queen Alia International Air Port.

Confers With Al-Fayiz 13 Apr

JN131612 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, has reiterated that an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East are planks of Jordan's policy on the Palestinian issue.

Speaking during a meeting with an ROK National Assembly delegation, Al-Fayiz said His Majesty King Husayn has been striving to convene an international peace conference, which is the most appropriate forum for ending the area's problems and the bitter struggle it is experiencing, which threatens world peace and security as well as the peoples of the region.

His majesty's efforts to win support for the proposed international conference from the European Community and the Socialist bloc have had a large measure of success, despite Israel's intransigence and the world Zionist movement's attempts to abort the king's moves, said Al-Fayiz.

On Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories, Al-Fayiz said Israel resorts to all forms of repression and coercion, seizing Arab land and deporting its legitimate owners — with the world looking on and not lifting a finger. He urged that the Korean parliamentary team, and those of other friendly countries to the 77th session of the International Parliamentary Union set for 26 April in Nicaragua, support the just Arab stand, noting that the Palestine question and the proposed international conference will be priority items on its agenda.

For his part, Kwak Chong-chol, head of the Korean parliamentary delegation, lauded the friendly relations between the ROK and Jordan, which, he said, had made substantial progress since the two countries began diplomatic relations in 1962. King Husayn's 1983 visit to Korea gave a big boost to bilateral relations, said the ROK deputy. The Korean people hold both His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people in high regard and follow his majesty's efforts in the interest of peace in the Middle East and just international causes, he added. His government gives full backing to the Arab position on the peace process and will give unstinting support to King Husayn's efforts and international moves on behalf of peace, Kwak Chong-chol said.

Meets With Al-Lawzi 14 Apr

JN141550 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said King Husayn believes international legitimacy represented by the United Nations must play a key role in the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the Mideast. At a meeting with the visiting ROK National Assembly team at the Parliament building today, Al-Lawzi noted that Israel came into being through a UN resolution and that the world body has addressed the Palestinian problem since 1948, passing numerous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which were 242 and 338, which provided for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and won international consensus.

Jordan, which has accepted the two resolutions, has consistently urged an exchange of territory for peace whereby Palestinian rights are restored, a dignified life for the peoples and states of the region are guaranteed, and the Mideast is freed from the whirlpool of struggle and suffering and the bloody wars which have produced humanitarian problems that have had their negative effects on the Palestinian people, Al-Fayiz said.

On the Gulf war, the senate president pointed out that it poses a real threat to the region, and that the Iranian agression against Iraq is linked to the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, a fact borne out by the military cooperation between Israel and Iran, which goes to show a convergence of interests in striking at the Arab identity and existence. Praising relations between Jordan and the ROK, Al-Lawzi said the Korean delegation must have seen for themselves how well these ties are developing

through their visits to numerous projects being implemented here.

Kwak Chong-chol, head of the Korean team, said that from the contacts they have had with Jrodanian officials they have gained the impression the Jordanians are anxious to further enhance the existing friendly relations. The delegation's visit to the refugee camps yesterday, he said, had given them the opportunity to see firsthand the depth of the Palestinian people's tragedy and the big role Jordan is playing in providing assistance to the refugees as well as to the people of the occupied lands. The Korean delegation has also been impressed by the progress made by Jordan, despite its modest resources.

Dudin Meets With French Cooperation Official

JN131557 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, has received Jean Souprina, technical assistant to the head of the French Foreign Ministry's Cooperation Department, presently visiting Jordan. They reviewed Jordan's efforts in support of the people of the occupied Arab territories through the economic and social development plan. They also looked into areas of development where the French Government could help.

Sham'un Says Cabinet Meeting Scheduled 'Next Week'

NC151000 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Following a meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, former President Camille Sham'un has said the ministers will hold a meeting in the Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies building] early next week to discuss social and economic issues and political reform, if possible. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Meets Karami

NC151946 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has begun contacts to prepare for a ministerial meeting at the Chamber of Deputies. He has met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and contacted Minister Salim al-Huss in this regard.

Front Urges Emergency Cabinet Economic Meeting

NC151114 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Responding to Prime Minister Karami's proposal that all illicit ports be handed over to the legitimate authorities, the Lebanese Front has reminded him that after it was decided, at a meeting held at the racecourse, to close these ports down, the Lebanese Forces were the only party that adhered to the decision. The front noted that all other ports from Tripoli to Sidon chose not to do so.

The Lebanese Front declared that the ongoing deterioration in living conditions has resulted from the policy of boycott, or rather negativism, obstinately pursued by the prime minister. It pointed out that the cabinet must be convened as an emergency socioeconomic committee and stated that Karami's position in this regard has inflicted starvation and poverty on all sectors of the people.

Israelis Shell Villages in South, Search Houses

NC151829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli enemy artillery east of Marj 'Uyun at dawn today shelled the towns of Jarju' and 'Arab Salim with 115-mm and 175-mm artillery. Some of the shells hit Popular Liberation Army positions — the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces in Kafr Falus and Lib'a.

Meanwhile, an Israeli force this morning stormed the towns of Al-Tayyibah, Al-Qantarah, and Hula, searching numerous houses and subjecting their owners to lengthy interrogations. The force threatened to blow up the houses if the occupants had cooperated with national resistance fighters.

In another development, a concentration of tracked vehicles belonging to the Israeli enemy and his agents was spotted at 1500 today in the Tallat al-Huqban and reservoir areas. An estimated 20 Merkava tanks were seen.

3 Syrians Killed in Ambush Near Tripoli Refinery

NC151214 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] According to a security report from the north, a Range Rover carrying members of the Syrian occupation forces was ambushed near the Tripoli refinery at dawn today. Two rockets were fired at the vehicle, killing three Syrians, one of whom was an officer. A fourth soldier was wounded in the attack.

Al-Asad Accepts USSR Invitation for April Visit

JN142033 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] At the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, will pay an official and cordial visit to the Soviet Union during the second half of April 1987.

Party Official on U.S. 'Failed Aggression'

LD151716 Tripoli JANA in English 1503 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, al-Tayr 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — 'Abdallah 'Alahmar the deputy secretary general of the Socialist Syrian Arab Ba'th Party stressed the failure of American imperialism and its allies in achieving their aim through the failed barbaric aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah. Instead he pointed out nothing but disappointment and miserable failure was brought upon them.

Speaking during an interview with JANA correspondent in Damascus to mark the first anniversary of the confronting of the Libyan Arab people to the American aggression he said: 'American imperialism views Libya and Syria as the real stumbling block in the way of it imposing its giant designs in the Arab region and that both Libya and Syria are the cause for the Camp David agreement reaching a dead end and for the failure and abrogation of the May 17 agreement with the enemy in the Lebanese arena.

He pointed out that American imperialism adopted terrorism as direct means and used its armed forces to launch aggression on Jamahiriyah which was defending its national rights and said:

'The Arab province of Libya confronted the aggression to which it was subjected, in defence of its territory, airspace and territorial waters inflicting losses to the American Air Force in aircraft and crews in the air and over the sea'

He went on to say 'Jamahiriyah and Syria continue the struggle against the common enemy from the same trench while working towards the establishment of a unified socialist Arab society free from usurpation and domination.'

He praised the role of the Libyan Arab people in confronting the American, NATO aggression and the Syrian Arab people and their leadership in steadfastly standing alongside their kin the people of Great Jamahiriyah in the face of aggression.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

Met by Al-Shar'

JN141852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb al-Ibrahimi has arrived in Damascus on a visit. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Algerian ambassador and embassy staff.

Al-Ibrahimi told SANA he is visiting Syria for consultations, adding that Algeria is fully aware of Syria's efforts and steadfastness against the Zionist enemy.

Meets Al-Asad

JN151201 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at 1130 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Algerian Ambassador in Damascus Moubarek Djedri. Talks revolved around the situation in the region and in the Arab arena.

Further on Talks, Italian Aid

JN151358 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Louis Faris report from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Algerian ambassador to Syria attended the meeting. Official sources did not disclose anything other than that the situation in the region and in the Arab arena was discussed.

Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus yesterday. He said the purpose of his visit is to hold consultations. He added: We in Algeria are fully aware of the efforts made by Syria and its steadfastness in the face of the Zionist enemy.

I have learned from an official source that one of the principal aims of Ibrahimi's visit is to discuss the current dialogue in Algiers among some Palestinian organizations and the PNC session to be held in Algiers on 20 April.

Official Syrian media have completely ignored all that has taken place in Algiers so far and instead highlighted the meeting between President al-Asad and Khalid al-Fahum in his capacity as PNC chairman. They emphasized that the Syrian president underlined Syria's continued support for the PNSF. The Syrian press today leveled further accusations at Yasir 'Arafat.

At the end of his meeting with President al-Asad Ibrahimi declined to make any statement.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Boris Chiapori Biancheri, director general of political affairs at the Italian Foreign Ministry. Senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials and the Italian ambassador attended the meeting. They discussed bilateral relations and the Middle East situation. This is the first high-level contact between the two countries since the crisis in Syrian-British relations 6 months ago. An informed source said

the meeting is totally unrelated to the consignment of supplies sent by Italian organizations yesterday to the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps [in Lebanon] and Beirut's southern suburb.

I have learned that Mrs Fanfani, the wife of the president of the Italian Senate, yesterday personally accompanied two planes loaded with supplies. The two planes landed at Damascus International Airport after midnight. The Syrian authorities assisted in unloading the planes and loading the supplies on Syrian trucks that left today, under Syrian guard, to distribute the supplies among the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps and Beirut's southern suburb.

Shamir Says Government Studying Syrian Moves

TA151916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir has said the government is studying the significance of the movement of the Syrian commando brigade toward the Al-Awwali River in Lebanon. Interviewed by our correspondent Dan Eshel, the prime minister said if preparations were necessary, Israel would announce this.

Peres, Shamir Meet; Conference Dispute Continues

TA151116 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
15 Apr 87 pp 1, 13

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] No agreement, or even some approximation of views, has been reached between Shamir and Peres on the issue of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

This was reported by associates of the two leaders on the eve of the Passover holiday, following a tete-a-tete during which Peres provided Shamir with a detailed report on his talks in Italy and Spain.

After the meeting, Shamir's associates said the prime minister is steadfast in his claim that because no real proposal for the convening of an international conference exists, there is no reason whatsoever to reach decisions now that would be binding on Israel in the future. The associates stressed that Shamir told Peres that on this matter he is guided by national, not party, considerations.

Peres' associates said the vice prime minister and foreign minister will persist in his efforts to bring about an international conference because he is convinced that this is an important stage in advancing the peace process.

Other subjects that came up in the conversation were relations with the Soviet Union and the fate of the Jews there, as well as other routine political matters.

Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, went specifically to Helsinki, Finland, to convey to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz a letter from Shim'on Peres on his talks with the Soviet representatives in Rome. Shultz read the letter before arriving in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders.

Katyusha Attack Injures Galilee Resident

TA160508 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] A Katyusha rocket landed in a Galilee panhandle settlement early this morning. One person was slightly injured, and two or three people suffered from shock. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that several Katyushas were fired at the security zone in southern Lebanon.

General Levi Discusses Response to Disturbances

TA151034 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi says the answer to the disturbances in the territories should involve striking at those who perpetrate the attacks and those who disrupt security. We should persevere in the current security policy, the chief of staff said, in such a way as to leave room for maneuver.

Our correspondent Ilan Ben-Dor reports the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the commander of the Central Command are now meeting with the heads of the Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Two Rafah Residents Wounded by IDF Gunfire

TA151816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Two residents were wounded by IDF soldiers' shots during the dispersal of a demonstration in Rafah. They received slight leg injuries and were hospitalized. Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that another Rafah resident needed medical treatment, apparently after being beaten by a club during the dispersal of the demonstration. There were several disturbances in the Gaza Strip today.

Arab Student Shot, Wounded in Qiryat Arba'

TA160436 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] A student of the Islamic College in Hebron was shot and seriously wounded at the entrance to Qiryat Arba' last night. Our correspondent reports that the guard at the gates of Qiryat Arba' noticed a youth carrying an object and approaching the gate while acting strangely. He did not heed the order to stop, and after he was warned and shots were fired in the air, he was shot at and hit. Residents of Qiryat Arba' treated him and arranged his hospitalization in Jerusalem.

MOROCCO

King Hassan II Interview With Europe 1 Press Club

LD130952 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 12 Apr 87

["Full translation" of interview given by King Hassan II to members of the Press Club of Europe 1 Radio on 10 April at the Royal Palace in Marrakech — read by announcer]

[Text] [Gerard Carreyrou, Europe 1] I thank Your Majesty for graciously accepting the invitation from the Press Club of Europe 1 and for receiving us this evening at this glorious Royal Palace in Marrakech, while you are surrounded by your most prominent ministers and aides. It is the second time we at the Press Club have hosted you. In fact, we have fond memories of our first meeting within the framework of the Press Club, which took place on 21 November 1976 at the Royal Palace in Rabat — more than 10 years ago.

At that time, Mr Giscard D'Estaing was president of the French Republic, while Mr Jacques Chirac's tenure as prime minister ended a short while before. At that time you had been on the throne for 15 years. Today, Mr Mitterrand is president of the French Republic, while Mr Chirac has come back to lead the government. You have been the king of Morocco for more than a quarter of a century — a sign to our country of the monarchy's continuity in this friendly and faithful country.

This evening we will be discussing with Your Majesty a series of issues concerning prospects for a settlement of the Middle East problem a year after your meeting with then-Israeli Prime Minister Shi'mon Peres in Ifran, the Iraq-Iran war, relations with Iran, all aspects of the problem of hostages and terrorism and the escalation of Islamic fundamentalism, the question of Chad, the state of Al-Qadhdhafi, your relations with your two neighbors in the Arab Maghreb — Tunisia and Algeria — the dispute with Spain, Moroccan-French relations 10 days before Francois Mitterrand's trip to Morocco, the internal situation in Morocco, and your own projects. There are many questions, Your Majesty, which will be asked by: Josette Alia from the weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Jacques Amalric from *Le Monde*, Paul Gilbert from *Le Quotidien De Paris*, (?Andre Bota) from the weekly *L'Express*, (?Jean Marie Levivre) from Europe 1, and Jean Pierre Elkabach, who will open the dialogue:

[Elkabach] Your Majesty, a few days ago you received the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn. You also received the Saudi monarch, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who will be visiting Paris in 3 days' time. Are the features for convening an international conference on the Middle East more clear?

[Hassan] With regard to my talks with His Majesty King Fahd, we dealt with many problems, including an analysis of what took place at the recent Islamic summit. We discussed the probable and current difficulties linked to convening an Arab summit. I must say that we did not consider talk about the international conference on the Middle East an urgent or appropriate matter; on the other hand, we discussed this question at length with His Majesty King Husayn, who is particularly enthusiastic about convening this international conference. We talked about this issue at length and tried to define its aspects.

[Elkabach] Has there been any kind of movement regarding the actually convening of this conference, and do you believe that the date for this is approaching, or do you feel the time is not right for various reasons?

[Hassan] The Israelis and the Americans used to believe until now that the USSR's attendance at this conference is not necessary. But I personally consider — and I should express my point of view, which I have told many times to our U.S. friends and which many share with me — that the USSR is involved in the matter from the geographical aspect because geography has great influence, whether we like it or not. We therefore cannot imagine a settlement of an international conflict in Latin America in the absence of the United States. Equally, we cannot imagine a settlement of a conflict in the Middle East without the USSR being a party to the conference, particularly since Moscow is only several hundred kilometers away from each of the Arab capitals concerned. Secondly, I believe that it would be illogical and unrealistic not to make the USSR committed — by signing the (?documents) — to honoring the peace that we want in the Middle East.

[Alia] Your Majesty, following your meeting in Ifran with Shi'mon Peres you appeared to be somewhat disappointed with the results of that meeting. Do you not see after all that time, and taking into consideration what you said a short while ago, that the meeting was very useful — because at any rate Shi'mon Peres regards the USSR's attendance at this conference as necessary, as you have said — and made us see the necessity of rapprochement between Israel and the USSR under Gorbachev's leadership?

[Hassan II] I was disappointed because I am a Semite. We Semites, whether Arabs or Jews, always bring a gift when we visit someone. On this basis I believed that Prime Minister Shi'mon Peres was going to bring me a gift. But he did not bring me what I wanted. However, as time passed I realized that he had brought me something important — his firm conviction in the need to establish peace.

More than that, this conviction is not the conviction of a socialist or philosopher, but a realistic man who realizes that a war between Israel and the Arab countries will never be as previous wars used to be, and that no matter what standard the Israeli [Defense] Force achieves it will not be able to repel the missiles. If Israel has an atomic bomb it will not use it for a simple reason — the atomic dust will reach it at the same time it reaches the Arab capitals. On the other hand, one cannot think about using chemical weapons, which are also hideous. I still remember what Prime Minister Peres said to me — our sons in Haifa and Tel Aviv have never heard air raid sirens and have never been down air raid shelters; and I do not want them to. I believe that when we hear an adversary saying something in which both necessity and virtues meet we can pin our hopes on him. I have always thought that it was possible to establish peace with Shi'mon Peres.

[Reporter] Now with the passage of time you have come to believe, Your Majesty, that the Iran meeting was useful and you are prepred to meet with Peres again if necessary because he brought with him elements of progress toward peace and because, with the passage of time, you have come to believe that he is a peace-loving person.

[Hassan II] I do not understand certain ethics, which are contrary to Arab tradition and which others want to impose on Arabs, which say that no one should talk to his adversary. Saladin treated his wounded enemy during the Crusades and talked to him in his own tent as he treated him. Talking does not mean abandoning one's right, or treason. Therefore, if Peres wants to meet me again, I see nothing to prevent it, on the condition that he will not disappoint me as a Semite and politically as was the case during the first visit.

[Alia] Do you see Mr Shamir the same way you see Mr Peres?

[Hassan II] No, not at all.

[Reporter] What is the difference in your view?

[Hassan II] The difference lies simply in the fact that I met with great pleasure with Mr Pinay and with Edgar Faure; and I wanted to meet with Mr Mendes-France. However, I never wished at any time to shake hands with Marshal (?Jeaun) or General (?Gieue). As far as I am concerned Shamir is like the latter two. I apologize for making such a comparison.

[?Levivre] Your Majesty, a short while ago you said that the date for convening the international conference on the Middle East is approaching. Have you any predictions regarding the date for convening it? And do you believe that it will be convened before the end of the year?

[Hassan II] Frankly, there is a very important element that nobody can assess — the attitude of those parties who are primarily concerned, and I mean the Palestinians. In this regard the attitude of the Palestinians will be definitely decisive.

[Reporter] Do you mean the PLO?

[Hassan II] Yes, naturally.

[Gilbert] Can the peace conference you are talking about be convened before the elections in Israel are held so the situation between Peres and Shamir becomes clear?

[Hassan II] Personally, I should not interfere in Israel's domestic issues, especially if I am accused of interfering in the domestic affairs of others, as we should not forget that we have more than 0.5 million Moroccan Jews in Israel. Therefore, I do not want to analyze the domestic situation prior to elections in that country.

[?Bota] Do you believe the theses you defend, which were agreed by the Fes summit conference that you yourself chaired, received approval from all the Arab homeland?

[Hassan II] At any rate they were points that were won because they could not be withdrawn on the grounds of their flexibility. This is because they are characterized by flexibility. They contain — and I say this quite frankly — recognition of Israel and Israel's right to live in peace. This is because they have a degree of comprehensiveness, which has made them frank, and legally this is clearly evident. Second, listing the points gives the impression they are specific; whenever the number of points increases the more they become specific. We cannot leave imagination to play a negative and pessimistic role.

[Elkabach] Who can be a Shimon Peres as far as the PLO is concerned?

[Hassan II] Irrespective of the characteristic we can give to such a description — and even if I knew such a person as far as the PLO is concerned — I believe that he would regard himself as having been insulted.

[Alia] Your majesty, do you believe that there has been a change in the USSR since Mr Gorbachev assumed power? Do you think this change is positive?

[Hassan II] I regard that when a [word indistinct] is changed it is always — at least at the political level, at the level of political objective, and the level of hope — regarded as evidence of very deep change. I believe that within this framework Mr Gorbachev has introduced a genuine change not just a new method. This is because a new method concerns appearances only but I believe that he has changed the nature of his predecessors' regime. There is something taking place, and I do not share the views of Mr Kissenger or Mrs Kirkpatrick or those who say: Beware, you are the ones who will change because you believe that the Soviets have changed. No, when a person happends to be the leader of the Kremlin and has power then I believe that both his statements and his words have value. I believe that something has changed. Even if Gorbachev — for reasons beyond his control — is no longer the leader of the Kremlin, what he has done — whether good or bad depending on our viewpoint — has become an irrevocable reality.

[Alia] Can this be in the interests of peace, for example?

[Hassan II] This will not necessarily serve the issue of peace, but it no longer works for the ideological and methodological supremacy of one system over another, and this is an important matter.

[Alia] Hasn't this happened at a time when the United States under President Reagan is weaker and has lost some of its credibility and prestige as a result of the Irangate scandal?

[Hassan II] If I were in Mr Gorbachev's place the only thing which would make me fearful of going further would be the fact that I too would have to face issues such as Irangate and Watergate, because these are all part of democracy.

[Amalric] I would like Your Majesty to answer two questions. The first is connected with the international conference: Do you frankly believe that this conference will realize the expected results and will represent an opportunity for finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict? Or is it part of a very long serial and at best only a phase in this serial? My second question is: Do

you believe today that the Arab-Israeli conflict is more serious than the Iraq-Iran war in the Middle East or the opposite?

[Hassan II] I do not want to delve into philosophy or metaphysics, but it is certain that the international conference, if held, will be the [words indistinct] push; it will create movement. In politics, deadlock is the worst thing. This is because motion, when it begins, even if in a negative direction, will always be productive in some way. I have had experience of this. It is not the experience of a king but the experience of a struggler. I believe that matters will drag on for a simple reason — because the matter requires not only the discussion of peace — because peace has technical aspects — but of the question of waters too, for example the waters of the Jordan and Litani Rivers, and what can be applied in this regard. The issue will go on for a long time, and ultimately technical committees will be set up. Will these technical committees then abide by the resolutions of the major political committee or the opposite? This will take a long time.

[Amalric] When we reach this stage, Your Majesty, will the political will be there?

[Hassan II] We can all then breathe a sigh of relief.

[Amalric] What about the Iraq-Iran war?

[Hassan II] Frankly, the war between Iraq and Iran is incomprehensible. This is because we see on the one hand a country and a people who are asking for one thing — peace; on the other hand we see a regime and a country which insist on continuing the war. Frankly speaking, I do not understand what the reasons are which compel Iran to continue the war, bearing in mind that both sides realize that the victory of the winning side will be like the victory of (?Bizop).

[Amalric] How do you view this conflict? Do you view it as an ordinary confrontation or as a continuation of the conflict between Persians and Arabs?

[Hassan II] Both. I read in your paper *Le Monde* 1 and 1/2 or 2 months ago a study which shows that the Iraq-Iran war is nothing but a repetition of history that from time to time comes to the surface, but at the same time it is being fed by the totally absurd revanchist spirit — the desire to show that we are Muslims first and foremost and that if one is a Muslim it is not necessary to submit to the rule of the Arabs, and vice versa. In my opinion it is a totally trival matter; it's just like when the non-European and non-Judaized Christians — because Christianity emerged in Judea — do not accept the supremacy of one over the other. I believe this is a decrepit and trivial idea.

[?Levivre] What is your opinion about what expert said to the effect that Iran cannot lose the war today and that Iraq cannot win it?

[Hassan II] I believe that the author of this statement has thought a great deal; please allow me a few seconds to answer your question. You say that Iran cannot lose, and that Iraq cannot win. If Iran does not win and if Iraq does not win, then it is a tragedy.

[?Levivre] Should there be a victor irrespective of who it is?

[Hassan II] There should be a victor, as this will enable the Arab states which face the Arab-Israeli problem, and Israel, as of now, to get ready to conclude the results, proceeding from this supposition or that. [sentence as heard] Certainly, if Iran won the war I would not be relaxed if I were in Israel's shoes.

[?Levivre] Does this mean that Iraq should be supported in the war and that Iran should be isloated, although it is difficult because Khomeyni and the religious figures around him cause fear in many states — even in some Arab states?

[no answer as heard]

[Alia] To supplement the above question, I would like to add that Khomeyni often says that what he wants is not to defeat Iraq but to topple Saddam Husayn. This thesis has become more and more widespread, it says: Let us allow Saddam Husayn to fall in order to save Iraq from religious fanaticism. What is your view on this thesis?

[Hassan II] In this connection I see what you see, that is to say that this thesis is deceptive, particularly to those of you whose hostages are involved. Those people who have taken U.S., French, European, German, and other hostages — what will they do to their neighbors?

[Alia] Your majesty, let us talk about the question of hostages and the terrorists. Recently President Bourguiba broke off diplomatic relations with Iran because — as he put it — a conspiracy was discovered in Tunisia that was hatched by Iranian diplomats. What is your view, and would you have done the same had you been in his place?

[Hassan II] The thing I do not understand is Iran's attitude toward Morocco; this is because Iran's only complaint against Morocco, in the final analysis, is that Morocco played host to the Shah for 3 months. However, I can reaffirm to you that if a bitter enemy of Morocco one day asks for asylum in Morocco we will not only agree to grant him such an asylum but he will be my personal guest. This is because there is a saying by the Prophet that urges people not to scorn a person whom God has exalted; therefore when I received the Shah the latter was Morocco's guest.

[?Bota] Disregarding the political problems, what is Your Majesty's feeling regarding confrontation between two developments in Islam — fanatical or extremist Islam, and the Islam you represent as a Prince of the Faithful?

[Hassan II] You only give me a few minutes whenever you ask me a question, but I would like to say that this particular question requires further elaboration.

First, we should know Shi'ism was not originally a faction of thought which was different from the Sunnah; it was a political stance. Shi'ites used to say that the immediate relatives of the Prophet Muhammad were more entitled to the caliphate than others. Following the death of the prophet, there was no problem with regard to the caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Siddiq or Umar [the first two caliphs after the Prophet Muhammad]. But the people of Mecca, Medina, and Muslims at large believed that 'Ali

[Imam 'Ali, the son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad and the Prophet's cousin] was more entitled to the caliphate than Uthman [the third caliph]. As a result of this, the political stance regarding the caliphate of the Prophet's son-in-law assumed a religious character in the face of other currents.

At the beginning therefore, Shi'ism was not a varying concept of Islam, nor of worship, nor of the interpretation of Islam; it was a political stance. If you like, Shi'ites were the defenders of the entitlement of people to power, like the Bourbons in France, especially since 1,000 years have elapsed since then. They [the Bourbons] wanted the direct [?counts] to come to power at a time when the [word indistinct] did not exist. There was only the Bourbon family and after that the Orleans family. At any rate, there are not two kinds of Islam. There is only one Islam.

I will make a comparison in order to conclude this issue. When today in 1987 we talk about the religious wars that took place in Europe, we regard them as unrealistic and meaningless. It can be said that the figure 15 is an unlucky number; we are in the 15th century. We in turn have our own 15th century — or what can be described as our religious wars. Certainly, in 50 or 70 years time historians will say that these wars were unrealistic and totally absurd. Shi'ites and Sunnis lived together side by side for 14 centuries and did not fight each other at all during that period. Why do we now label Muslims as fundamentalist Muslims and fanatical Muslims? In my opinion it is a fabricated and totally superficial situation.

[Elkabach] Your Majesty, you know the extent to which both the United States and France have suffered as a result of the detention of their nationals as hostages in Lebanon. What is the way out of this impasse? Should there be negotiations with the kidnappers of the hostages or with the states which protect them or manipulate them? Should these states be sold arms, wheat, etc? What should be done in your view?

[Hassan II] In my opinion each case should be treated individually. The matter primarily concerns the attitude toward the crime. Any person who submits to blackmail submits to the problem of hostages. Any person who has decided not to submit to blackmail will not submit to the problems of hostages.

[Elkabach] Does the West — France for example — give you the impression that it is submitting to blackmail at the moment?

[Hassan II] Two years have gone by and the matter is not resolved. If I were in the place of some of the officials in the Western countries that have nationals there [in Lebanon] I would have issued a statement to be published everywhere in which I would say to the lecturers, philosophers, environmentalists, and all those whom it may concern that, from now on, I will not be responsible for their security.

[Alia] Why do you list journalists in this group? [as heard]

[Hassan II] Nobody forces them to go there.

[Alia] Your Majesty, isn't the matter serious as far as French policy is concerned?

[Hassan II] Therefore, in this case you have to pay the price, and I believe you share my view.

[Amalric] Following your estrangement with Al-Qadhdhafi some observers expected a wave of terror to take place against your country. But nothing of the sort took place in Morocco. What is the secret behind this?

[Hassan II] What? Terrorism by Al-Qadhdhafi in Morocco because we abolished the union?

[Amalric] Exactly.

[Hassan II] There is no secret. If there was, I would not reveal it to you. The issue simply concerns the medium. In terrorist activities it is inevitable that prior to carrying out any activity, work must pass through two stages — the creation of a receiving cell and then a sheltering cell. In between these two stages what can happen happens. The whole issue depends on the medium and on the national conscience of the individual within his national ethics. When there are no receiving and sheltering cells, I believe a terrorist has a chance to act but not without punishment. I believe this is the secret.

[Reporter] In Lebanon — as far as the case of France and the French hostages is concerned — in your view which states are behind the detention of the hostages? Is it Iran, Syria, or both?

[Hassan II] Frankly speaking I do not know. Because I believe that if one knew, then the least the states which are the victims of these kidnappings can do is to react. Therefore, as long as there is no French or American reaction against a specific party, then I cannot ascertain the [word indistinct]. But there should be a reaction.

[Elkabach] Your Majesty, were you told about efforts to combat terrorism which are being carried out by the government of Mr Chirac with Mr [name indistinct] and Mr [name indistinct]? Were you informed of this? Did you perhaps help in this?

[Hassan II] You know our attitude toward terrorism. We have expressed it repeatedly. Our cooperation with regard to the exchange of information and combatting terrorism — except when it concerns resistance to an occupying country, but in this case it is a different matter and we could talk about this issue for several hours — when it concerns blind terrorism whose victims are men, children, the aged, civilians, and others, we not only cooperate with France but also with all our European and non-European and Arab friends, as well as Asians and Africans against this new pest.

[Gilbert] In a few days time — that is, on 15 April — it will be the first anniversary, if those are the right words, of the U.S. bombing of Tripoli. A year after that bombing, how do you see its results?

[Hassan II] We cannot definitely judge the results of the U.S. bombing because immediately following the bombing, the Chadian war broke out. Nevertheless, it will take several years to evaluate the aftermath of the bombing and the aftermath of the Chadian war precisely. The two events were so close to each other

that it was not possible to judge the consequences. Both produced very significant reactions in Libya without being the same, although I believe that Hissein Habre defended his country and that the Americans did not justify their action nor were they able to give legality to the aggression on Libya. This is a fact I cannot possibly accept, and I will always reject it.

[Gilbert] You have been rather angry with the Americans at various times. Have you made up? For example, you were going to visit the United States; will you soon be going to the United States, Your Majesty, to meet with President Reagan?

[Hassan II] I was going to the United States, but Mr Reagan knew — and I do not know how — of my meeting with Shi'mon Peres, and asked me to proceed to the United States to meet with Peres there. I openly refused to do so and said: If [passage indistinct] I receive him in my own country then my freedom of movement prevents me from going to meet him somewhere else. But this year I am invited to visit the United States — on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the relations between the two countries — and I will do so.

[Gilbert] Therefore, matters are alright.

[Hassan II] Matters are very good.

[Amalric] Two years ago, Your Majesty, you spoke about the nature of the Chadian conflict. I heard you once stressing the racial kinship that you believe exists between the tribes of northern Chad and the tribes of southern Libya. Do you still say the same thing today? And how do you evaluate the defeats suffered in recent months by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi?

[Hassan II] I still adhere to what I said; and what I said about Libya and Chad is applicable to all countries in the world, whether the United States and Mexico; France and Germany; Spain or Italy; or to Yugoslavia and (country indistinct). Therefore I still stick to what I said about the interrelation between peoples. Certainly, I was anxious to see that relations between Chad and Libya did not become critical because I believed that Chad would become the third partner in the Arab-African union, and that if Chad really managed to live and coexist with total confidence with Libya then it would in actual fact be the positive element in this Arab-African union which would be founded on a confidence which could have been widened. For this reason I worked, as much as possible, to give momentum to the dialogue.

[Reporter] Isn't that still the case?

[Hassan II] We believe in defending respect for the territorial integrity of states and we believe in defending respect for states' sovereignty. Chad is Chad and Libya is Libya and we believe that Chad has every right to rule itself by itself.

[Alia] Once Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said to you — according to what you once said at a news conference, I believe: I do not want the [word indistinct] the underside of my foot in Chad. Aren't you afraid that Libya will react violently? Do you expect a major Libyan counteroffensive in the next few days?

[Hassan II] My dear lady, you have quoted this sentence. President Mitterrand was the one who told me that during his meeting on the Island of Crete with Al-Qadhdhafi the latter pointed out to him all the bad things about the Aozou sector. This dispute is still outstanding, and its solution is still remote. Al-Qadhdhafi could have told him [Mitterrand]: I do not want them to come and disturb the underside of my foot. He [Al-Qadhdhafi] did not tell me that, I heard it.

[Alia] Does the Aozou sector constitute the underside of Al-Qadhdhafi's feet?

[Hassan II] He believes so. In my view, the International Court of Justice can say whether the Aozou sector constitutes the underside of Al-Qadhdhafi's feet, or (?ignore the matter). Many people have asked him to take the case to the International Court of Justice.

[Reporter] Has his recent defeat in Chad really weakened him, Your Majesty? And if so what [passage indistinct]?

[Hassan II] Frankly I do not know. I do not know whether it has weakened him or not. All I know is that it is certain the Africans might have been very surprised by the consequences of the military events in view of the considerable ammunition and equipment that Libya has. It is certain that something has taken place in this connection.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, if you allow me, we would like to refer to the problems of the Arab Maghreb and relations with Algeria and to the future of Tunisia.

[?Bota] Your Majesty, is it true that Col Al-Qadhdhafi — since the abrogation of the Arab-African Union treaty — has again begun to help the Polisario Front which you are fighting in the Sahara? And on the other hand do you believe that Libya, under Al-Qadhdhafi's leadership, will have hegemonic ambitions in Tunisia after President Bourguiba disappears from the scene?

[Hassan II] In my opionion this question stems from suppositions and on this basis I will answer it with suppositions. It is being said that Al-Qadhdhafi has gone back to helping the Polisario Front. In order not to conceal anything from you, I would like to point out that I asked him this question less than 1 week ago when I said to him: I await a frank reply so that I can make my own arrangements.

[?Bota] What was his reply?

[Hassan II] So far I have not received this reply. Since I have not yet received this reply I do not think that I should react. However, I will react when I receive a very clear reply.

[?Bota] Will you believe him when he replies?

[Hassan II] You know that we — politicians and men of law — always find ourselves face to face with judicial-politico equations. In law the good intention is always assumed to exist but politics requires reality. Nevertheless, [word indistinct] should not exaggerate [word indistinct]. Here in the field we will see some pointers that will confirm whether he is truthful or not. At all

events, irrespective of the reply, which I believe will be truthful, Morocco will take it into account and will do what it must do.

[?Bota] And if he tells you that he has no interest at all in what will take place in Tunisia regarding the succession to Bourguiba, will you believe him?

[Hassan II] He will not tell me so, because he knows that I know that he has told me that and that all people know that he is always interested in the Djerba Agreement.

[?Bota] Does that make you feel anxious within the framework of the Arab Maghreb?

[Hassan II] We are about 2,500 km from Tunisia. We are not directly concerned or objectively concerned but are sentimentally linked to the Tunisian people. Even regarding the balance in the Arab Maghreb region, it is certain that we cannot but be concerned about everything that may happen in Tunisia and may lead to changing the course of events.

[?Bota] Even to elicit a reaction from you?

[Hassan II] I cannot at all tell you whether I will have a reaction or not, until I know what my reaction will be. Presently, I do not know what my reaction will be.

[Alia] Your Majesty, at one time you proposed dropping foodstuffs to the beseiged Palestinian camps in Lebanon. I want to know why you did not do so? Also, how do you view — as a Muslim — the events surrounding the Palestinian camps, where Shi'ite Muslims open fire on women and children — who are also Muslims — when they try to venture outside the camps?

[Hassan II] First I will answer the second question. Even if that were to happen on another continent between two states having religions different to my own, my reaction would be the same: denunciation and — more than that — embarrassment. When we review history we find many abominable things. What took place in the camps, however, cannot be logically accepted, particularly when it is done by the nation that discovered algebra and the zero, without which man would not have been able to manufacture intercontinental missiles. This is in addition to medicine and other sciences. Therefore this (?gives rise to my indignation). As for the first question, I asked the same one during a telephone conversation with President Amin al-Jumayyil, whom I telephoned twice and who told me: I give you my consent, but I have nothing. In fact, what I expected from (?his appeal) was that we should immediately carry out not a Green March, but green air journeys in which all the Arab states would send an aircraft to Beirut at the same time.

[Reporter] Only the Arab countries?

[Hassan II] Only the Arab countries. This is because an Arab issue would be tackled by the Arabs initially.

[Reporter] Did you contact the other Arab countries?

[Hassan II] No. I preferred to await the reactions. What would the situation be if their answers were negative? I have received neither negative nor positive replies. Thus, I was neither disappointed nor happy. Yet, I had expected a collective airlift.

[Reporter] Why did that not happen? Why do you think, Your Majesty, that the Western countries should not do so?

[Hassan II] I shall ask them this question. But, I believe that the matter has been closed now.

[Reporter] No, the matter still continues. Only yesterday there was firing.

[Hassan II] Well, the Green March began at Marrakech. We will try to organize a green air trip to Lebanon.

[Reporter] It would be good to have the Europeans participate in this, for the issue is an international one.

[Hassan II] It would be easier to open fire on a non-Arab plane than on an Arab plane.

[Amalric] With regard to the Green March, I would like to ask Your Majesty the King this question: Can you define precisely your attitude toward the two Spanish ports, Ceuta and Melilla? Do you totally discount the staging of a Green March on these territories to affirm Moroccan sovereignty?

[Hassan II] There are certain events that are not repeated because of the absence of certain pertinent factors. Certainly, staging a Green March to Melilla or Ceuta would not have any significance. But as to my position toward the status of Ceuta and Melilla, I say that it is contrary to history and cannot be compared with the situation of Gibraltar. Gibraltar is situated in Europe and is in the hands of a European power which is a partner to Spain in the EEC and NATO. Let us say that this issue is the subject of a conflict or a misunderstanding, since Ceuta and Melilla are situated in Morocco and Africa and both are ports. I consider their position constitutes a colonialist issue. We will try to defend our rights, but we will do so through dialogue and always through dialogue. I do not contemplate any means other than dialogue with Spain.

[Gilbert] Your Majesty, does the application by a non-European country such as Morocco to join the European Community constitute a serious application? What reaction have you had when you have actually discussed the matter with the heads of European countries?

[Hassan II] Before you consider this matter, you must remember that Morocco was an African as well as a European country at one and the same time. What makes my application serious is that Europe lacks a strategic depth and so it should seek it and accept it when it is offered before we find it necessary to ask for it. [sentence as heard]

Second, I wish to say that when the Europeans received the Moroccan application, they did not find it surprising nor did they consider it an act of heresy. They all said that the matter requires study and that this study will be lengthy but that the application was not fantastical.

[Gilbert] Then you still adhere to it, because I am confident that one day we will be asked.

[?Bota] Eleven years ago, at this same Press Club, you spoke of a war that had begun; namely, the Saharan war. At that time, you told our colleagues, who numbered five or six at the most, that the Polisario transported two or three mortars by camel and spread fear in one hamlet or so. However, we have noted from the recent offensive that was repulsed by your forces the presence of very sophisticated weapons. How do you explain this development and which countries are responsible for it?

[Hassan II] All I can tell you is that 11 years is enough timefor a transformation from the stage of camels and mortars to that of antitank rockets, SAM-6 missiles, and heavy tanks to have taken place. I leave you to draw your own conclusions. I know you, Mr (?Bota) I have known you are a clever man and well informed about the events taking place here for some time. You and your readers should draw your own conclusions.

[Gilbert] Your Majesty, you do not interfere in the domestic affairs of the other countries, as you said a little while ago, but I believe you are as fully familiar with the political life in France as any French statesman. Therefore, I wish to ask YourMajesty this: You received Chirac last December, and you will shortly receive President Mitterrand. Since France began to live under a system of cohabitation, who is the principal person you deal with — the president or the prime minister?

I have yet another question: As a friend of France, do you believe cohabitation has weakened France's foreign policy or not?

[Hassan] With regard to the first question, I know both the president of the Republic and the prime minister equally well. I knew them before the former became president of the Republic and the latter before he became prime minister. I deal with either of them as necessary according to the issues I need to raise personally. Furthermore, cohabitation prevailed even when I paid my recent visit to France and its features began to develop. But this did not prevent my being received at the Presidential Palace and at the Paris municipality. We also welcomed the president of the Republic during the reception we held for the Moroccan community in France. All of us were aware of what was going to happen next March.

However, I did not feel, not for one single moment, that what was going to take place would affect French-Moroccan relations in any way. French-Moroccan relations are based on constant factors so these relations would not be affected by any internal French change.

[Reporter] I wish to ask your majesty a personal question. You used to describe President Giscard D'Estaing as your friend. Do you have kind or unkind words to say about President Mitterrand?

[Hassan II] Unkind words? No. But I have many kind words about President Mitterrand, particularly as I knew him even before I knew Mr Giscard d'Estaing, particularly as President D'Estaing did not occupy any government post during the hard times. Out of gratefulness, we must say that we are indebted to President Mitterrand. We will never forget this particularly as far as I am personally concerned on the family level. The matter concerned my father. Our relations were not the same because they were based on different factors.

[Reporter] Then you cohabit with Mr Mitterrand better than you cohabit with Mr Chirac.

[Hassan II] I cohabited well with Mr Giscard. I am cohabiting well with Mr Mitterrand, but the use of the word cohabitation with reference to us is not accurate.

[Alia] You recently said some harsh words about the French men of education. I would like to ask you how far has this matter gone? Of course, I am referring to the French teachers.

[Hassan II] This does not change anything, for you usually send us the best elements. I say this to you because we are now talking in French and not in Arabic. My remark was in fact a word of reproach among friends, for there were matters that cannot be allowed.

[Alia] Can you elaborate a little on this matter?

[Hassan II] When people are sent to teach your language and your culture and help develop the men of the future, the best elements should be chosen for this whether they are sent to Morocco or to any other country, irrespective of their political stances. When the trade unions in France declare a strike, they staged the strike in our country. Yes, for months, the [French] teachers refrained from correcting exams and the standard of teaching deteriorated greatly.

Thirdly, on the pedagogical field, the educational institutions are the most important. But I will not give any details to our youth. Finally, what has taken place recently at the Decartes Secondary School has more than just one significance. Some students between 12 and 13 submitted complaints to the head mistress who did nothing about them. So they were forced to go to the embassy to say that teacher Mr so and so told them in class that your royalist system was collapsing. I am talking to you here about the revolutionaries of the future, children who are 12 or 13 years of age. We reject such behavior. However, it was not this that disturbed me. I do not want any talk about drugs inside educational institutions.

[Alia] Was this happening?

[Hassan II] It had started.

[?Levivre] Your Majesty, will you also rebuke France as a friend following the approval of the visa system?

[Hassan II] Not at all. But I believe that, God willing, if I am forced to take such a decision toward France, I hope France will understand it and tolerate it as I have tolerated its decision. But I will do it.

[?Levivre] Permit me to return to the question of teachers and students. Your Majesty, you have spoken of the attitude of the

teachers, which is far from ideal. You have drawn Paris' attention to this. But since you are in your country, what type of measures could you take to deal with the matter?

[Hassan II] I cannot do anything, because I am confident that you too in France are victims of such a situation. Your education even in France is no longer what it used to be. The standard in your country has deteriorated as well.

[?Bota] Your Majesty, you have been following developments in French politics, and indeed developments in French society as well. You have a large community of expatriates in France, are you worried about what might appear to you as racist manifestations in French society?

[Hassan II] As you are aware, I am against interference in internal affairs by foreigners. I said this to President Mitterrand in Paris, despite the fact that the Socialists were ready to accept the voting of foreigners in the towns and municipalities. I have advised my citizens in France not to interfere in the affairs of others and to refrain from voting. I cannot understand why there should by any racist thinking. Such a thing could happen, but racism would, however, be selective. I believe if any marks were to be given for good citizenship, Moroccans living in France would be the first and foremost to earn them.

[?Bota] Then you are not worried?

[Hassan II] I feel somewhat disturbed by their understanding of justice. It is neither just nor kind and it is illogical when it is adopted against us in particular.

[Amalric] As far as you are concerned, what is the problem regarding the Moroccan community which totals about 600,000 Moroccans living in France whom you are asking not to merge with French society and not to participate in municipal elections, and so on?

[Hassan II] This community quite simply poses the following problem: Within a few years these young people will reach voting and election candidacy age. Therefore, they will contribute to legislation. To most Moroccans born and living in Morocco, a vote or opposition by 50 Moroccans born and raised abroad to a draft law or a proposed law — because they could not understand or absorb it — is sufficient to warrant a reconsideration of the whole thing. It is my right to be preoccupied with the national roots of these people. I do not say that they will not be attached to the homeland, but their adjustment to Moroccan society will take some time.

[Amalric] But what can you do?

[Hassan II] I will try as much as possible to get them to forget the fact that at one stage they lived abroad away from their country and to remind them of their homeland every day by setting up schools, sending teachers, publishing books, and doing everything that will remind them that they are Moroccans, that they have duties to their country, and they must never mix and (?intermarry) while living in another country.

[Alia] Your majesty, you have recently pardoned some political detainees who had appealed to you for such a pardon. A few of them — four, I believe, I am not sure of the exact number — are still in prison. Do you not believe that it is high time you pardoned them?

[Hassan II] Madam, I will tell you what I told a prominent French figure. I prefer not to mention her name.

[Alia] And why not?

[Hassan II] Well, then, I will mention her name. Mrs Mitterrand made me happy by writing to me several times asking me to intervene in the interest of one person or another. The last time she visited Morocco I asked to meet with her privately. My reply to her request was the same given all my friends abroad. I said to her: Your parents might have talked to you about World War I.

She said that they did, but she did not grasp the significance of my question. I said to her: You must also have heard of the Monument (?des Morts) containing bones of the dead, and of the trenches and the gas victims.

She said yes. I told her: The desert to us is as Alsace and Lorraine are to France, and I am prepared to grant everything you ask of me. I have sworn to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country. Anyone who claimed that Alsace and Lorraine is not French would be a German collaborator, and France's legitimate course in that case would be to punish him judicially. As long as these people say that the Sahara is not Moroccan it is my duty to ward off their threat, but as gently as possible. They watch television, get newspapers, and receive their relatives. Furthermore, their leader has recently gotten married.

[Reporter] This means that if they change their minds over this problem you may review your position?

[Hassan II] Perhaps, but at any rate I will not reexamine my conviction. Repentance may come late from some repentants, and this deprives the latter from credibility.

[Reporter] Does not one become nobler by being lenient?

[Hassan II] I believe I have achieved my natural height, and I believe I cannot go beyond this limit.

[Gilbert] Your Majesty, how are you now preparing the crown prince to take over the realm?

[Hassan II] In fact we prepare him without thinking about it. We prepare him for everything, particularly to be always active, not to have an internal claimant spirit or a trade unionist tendency, not to always wait for paid leave, to be always in the service of all. I also prepare him in particular for something important, remembering the words of a French interior minister — I think it was Mr Gilles [word indistinct] in 1948, during the great strikes in France — who said: Governing does not mean pleasing. It is also said that governing is expecting, and I say that governing is not pleasing. Governing is not always a pleasure. One must then become accustomed to turning bitter things into tasteful things.

[Reporter] Is this what your father taught you?

[Hassan II] Yes. He did not teach me a lot; he taught me not to lie, to sacrifice myself for my country, to love my big family — my people — and my small family. Regarding these things there is no need for many matters to be available. Then there is the role of the nature of the person, because style is the person.

[Alia] I have a small question to add to that: Do you reserve considerable time for bringing up your daughters too?

[Hassan] I must say that bringing up my daughters has now ended. One of them is going to continue her education with her husband; she is going to marry in a month. I intend to marry the other one off in 1 or 2 years. Therefore, marrying off my daughters does not pose any question for me any longer. What happened has happened, and one cannot change it. I believe that they have received a good education. I hope so. The oldest daughter is very happy with her husband; she gave me a granddaughter whom I love very much. As for the other two, I am very pleased about them.

[Elkabach] Majesty, I have always wanted to preserve the continuity of a monarchy, and you have been governing Morocco for 26 years. Are you considering the rule with more objectivity, and when you meet with difficulties, how do you face up to them?

[Hassan II] I tell you very simply: When it is said that those who rule in the Kremlin have no creed or are atheists, I reject this because at one moment or another one has to make one's own decision alone, and when one wants to make a decision one is obliged to refer to somebody. Every individual's decision and responsibility is his own. I have no silos containing atom bombs, and even if I had them it would not make any difference. I am convinced that even those who are said to believe in God instinctively look for something stronger when they want to make a decision that may be critical.

[Reporter] Apparently, you have recently told *Jour De France* magazine that you could have been a dancer or a cook.

[Hassan II] I said that jokingly.

[Reporter] Naturally. Nobody would possibly believe anything else.

[Hassan II] The part about being a cook is perhaps true.

[Reporter] You probably have hidden unknown talents, but would such talents make you anything better than the king of Morocco?

[Hassan II] I was given the choice of doing what I wanted and of living in luxury without being king of Morocco. My father gave me that choice. He told me that I had to choose within 3 days. I was 16 and 1/2 years old at the time. I could have chosen the easy way. On the last night I thought to myself: When history is written it would be said that the monarch of Morocco had two sons and that the older son was calle Moulay Hassan, but nothing else; the page would be turned. I, however, did not want the page to be turned; I wanted the talk about me to continue, and that is what put me in the position I am in now.

[Reporter] Your majesty, some years ago you escaped some attempts on your life. It was then said that the king of Morocco is blessed. Is that still the case?

[Hassan II] Whenever this matter is raised I remember that beautiful song which begins 'and the duck is still alive'.

[Carreyrou] Your majesty, on behalf of all my colleagues I thank you for participating in this special press club meeting. We found you in good health 10 years ago and now we see you in good health. Thank you for receiving us and rest assured that we will not wait another 10 years for another interview with you.

[Hassan II] May I also say a few words?

[Reporter] Naturally.

[Hassan II] Although not all those here today were among those I met with 10 years ago, I still felt the same human warmth and the same eagerness. You have the same courtesy and same curiosity. I thank you.

SUDAN

AL-USBU' Reports 16 Apr 'Aborted' Coup Attempt

JN161128 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Apr (SUNA) — A coup attempt whose zero hour was set at dawn today was aborted here. The attempt was aimed at seizing power and carrying out assassinations and explosions in Khartoum.

Reporting this in today's issue, the newspaper *Al-Usbu'* said this racist, ideological attempt was aimed at overthrowing the democratic regime and seizing power. The sides represented [as received] have disclosed that the attempt included certain racists who are represented by ideological parties of three different trends.

Al-Usbu' added that all the elements that planned and tried to carry out this attempt have been arrested. Several active and dismissed military elements, which were against the democratic regime, were detained.

Al-Usbu' said the Armed Forces have been put on a maximum state of readiness.

On another level, Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state at the Defense Ministry, categorically denied reports that any Sudanese Armed Forces officers, NCO's, or soldiers were arrested. He was speaking to the newspaper *Al-Maydan*, organ of the Sudanese Communist Party. He said the Armed Forces are completely united.

On another level, Muhammad Tawfiq Yusuf, information and culture minister and official spokesman of the government, in a statement to *Al-Maydan* warned against the consequences of thinking [words indistinct] the rumors [words indistinct].

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Greets Hungary on 42d National Day

EA091024 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has sent a message of congratulations to Comrade Pal Losonczi, leader of the People's Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of that country's 42nd independence day. In a message sent on behalf of the WPE, government, and people and on his own behalf, Comrade Mengistu said the struggle waged by heroic Hungarians against fascism is a shining example in the international struggle for peace, equality, and justice. Our comrade revolutionary leader added that the strong relations between our two countries have grown from strength to strength. He wished the president good health and the fraternal people of Hungary progress and prosperity.

EPLF Claims 117 Government Troops Killed 6 Apr

EA091313 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrignya 0400 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Western Zone — The heroic EPLF forces have dealt a heavy blow to an enemy force during an engagement on 6 April in the Western Zone. The enemy force sustained heavy losses in men and materiel and was forced to retreat toward the Liben area. One hundred and seventeen WPE soldiers were killed, 190 were wounded, and 5 others were captured. Fifty-one assorted weapons were captured in good working order. [passage indistinct]

KENYA

Uganda's Museveni Urged To Negotiate With Rebels

EA152027 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 15 Apr 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr Museveni Must Talk With Insurgents"]

[Text] The strife, death and political instability that the world thought Uganda had left behind with the departure of President Milton Obote and General Tito Okello are back in the country with a ferocious vengeance. Accompanying these are mounting suspicion and mistrust, and no-so-muted complaints and accusations against the leadership. It is an extremely ironic twist of fate for President Yoweri Museveni's regime, especially when one recalls the ecstatic fanfare and breath of hope that marked his ascendance to power in Uganda in January 1986. He promised, and for a while restored security. The palpable fear and death that had, for years, stalked Kampala streets were erased. The rare discipline exhibited by National Resistance Arm, (NRA) soldiers reassured all and sundry that, indeed, the rule of law and peace had finally descended upon Uganda.

True, President Museveni still had a war to fight with fleeing troops loyal to the immediate predecessor of his regime. Their disorganised state promised quick victory for the NRA. But this was not to happen. They regrouped, planned and are now dug in in the northern and western regions of the country. There is no victory in sight in the war that started 13 months ago. Casualties on both sides are daily increasing as the resolve to fight on becomes an obsession. President Museveni has sworn to continue killing rebels until they cease to be a factor in the political arena. The rebels show no hint of giving up either, despite the heavy losses they have suffered. In the meantime, reports have surfaced of civilians being victimised.

It is a grim scenario requiring immediate redress. This is why President Museveni must, on the principles of humanity and prudent political sense, initiate peace negotiations. Yet he says he has no business negotiating with "criminals". But we suggest to him that it is not only his business but his duty to do so. His oath of office enjoins him to do. He owes it to the thousands of innocent Ugandan civilians who have become "homeless" in their own country. The momentous task of rebuilding Uganda needs his undivided attention. It also calls for the harnessing of Uganda's entire resources, human and otherwise. Continued fighting is a betrayal of the call to save Uganda, a call that President Museveni himself once used to legitimise his government. May we remind President Museveni that he himself emerged from the forest only after a negotiated peace process had started. The rebels now fighting the NRA are made of the same fibre and will continue exchanging shells until they are offered an alternative bargaining strategy. The only one that works is to talk.

Elements within Uganda think the same way as we do and have told President Museveni as much. Most notable is the Democratic Party (DP), a partner in the coalition now ruling Uganda. It has sent a representation to the president urging him to change the uncompromising stance he has adopted vis-a-vis the rebels. It is the earnest hope of all in sympathy with the Ugandan situation that he will exercise his well-known reasonableness and offer the olive branch to the rebels. In the final analysis, they are all Ugandans, all hopefully wishing the best for their country. This will not be achieved by the current excessive killings.

TIMES Cites Human Rights Record

EA152018 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 15 Apr 87 p 6

[Text] Claims have once again been made in Uganda — and not without justification — that the country's embryonic National Resistance Army was wantonly killing innocent civilians and torturing scores of other suspects. The diquieting charges, to which propagandists who have been manipulated [by] Mr Yoweri Museveni in Western Europe are apt to turn a blind eye, have been made by the Kampala-based Uganda Human Rights Activists (UHRA) in their latest quarterly report which makes for some interesting and saddening reading. The activists have appealed to President Museveni, whose recent anti-Kenya activities and diatribes will not eclipse all the sordid mess in his own backyard, to prevent and investigate the blatant abuses and

clarify his regime's policy on the powers of the National Resistance Army (NRA) to arrest, detain and harass civilians.

Uganda's NRA, made up almost entirely of Mr Museveni's former guerrillas, is now the countrys national army. It is a collection of young men and women who are as yet to be fully retrained and made conversant with the manuals of good order and military discipline. Immersed in unending skirmishes with the country's assorted rebel forces still loyal to the former regimes of Idi Amin, Milton 'Obote and the Okellos, some of the morons in the NRA have since January last year excelled in the same tactics of abominable inhumanity as were practised by elements of the toppled erstwhile soldiery.

The 17-page report we are alluding to names two civilians who were arrested in the country's troubled north and subsequently died while in detention. It was apparently compiled before the recent annihilation, in coldblood, of former Energy Minister Kayiira. The document also laments: "The UHRA has also received reports of extra-judicial killings in northern Uganda, where rebels are said to be active. These reports indicate that many of those killed are not combatants and are killed indiscriminately..."

Of course, President Museveni and his aides will by now have rejected and spat upon the UHRA document, and their unofficial anti-Kenya propoganda lobbies in Stockholm, London and Washington will have invented a few more lies inimical to our country's good image, determined to go on covering up NRAs excesses. Apart from sheer trigger-happiness, human tortures in Uganda are said to have invented a host of other savage methods, quite a good deal of which have been tried by neofascists elsewhere in the world. Incidentally, foreign-aided "guerrillas" in a number of other countries (and both Mozambique and Angola are cases in point), are committing the same type of inhuman excesses which are effectively played down by their mentors and apologists abroad. May God of Africa forbid...

bectCHAD

Zairian Foreign Affairs Secretary Arrives

Met by Korom

AB152242 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Citizen Kabala Kisekaseka, Zairian secretary of state for foreign affairs and special envoy, was received at the Presidency today. He arrived in Ndjamena today bringing a message from President Mobutu Sese Seko to President Hissein Habre. The Zairian secretary of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in Ndjamena on board a special plane, is being received right now by the head of state.

Kabala Kisekaseka was welcomed by Ahmed Korom, his Chadian counterpart, at the airport this morning.

Delivers Message From Mobutu

AB160756 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Citizen Kabala Kisekaseka, Zairian secretary of state for foreign affairs, was received for about 30 minutes yesterday evening by President El Hadj Hissein Habre. Kabala Kisekaseka was accompanied by Zairian Ambassador to Chad Dianda Malumalu. Present with the head of state were his close assistants, notably Ahmed Korom, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Ahmed Ouloussani, the president's private secretary. The Zairian secretary of state for foreign affairs brought a message from President Mobutu to the Chadian head of state. He discussed this with our reporter, Madelaine Djimassenga, after the meeting yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Kisekaseka] Yes, I brought a message from Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic of Zaire, to his counterpart and brother, President Hissein Habre.

Personally, it is not my duty to know what the message is about. I only delivered it. Of course, I had the privilege and the opportunity to talk a little with President Habre concerning bilateral relations.

[Djimassenga] President Mobutu recently spoke in favor of submitting the issue of Aozou to the International Court of Justice for settlement. Did you again discuss this issue with the president?

[Kisekaseka] No. Frankly speaking, my dear friend, I think that if such an important issue is being discussed by the heads of state, it is not prudent to interfere with their discussions. I brought a message. Concerning the issue of the Aozou Strip, to be frank, I support the solution suggested by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. If there are consultations on this issue, I think there will be much more success if these consultations are held at their level and not at my modest level. [end recording]

GABON

Ex-GUNT Head Goukouni Oueddei Arrives 15 Apr

AB152206 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1845 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Goukouni Oueddei, former leader of GUNT, arrived in Libreville only a few hours ago. Mr Goukouni arrived from Abidjan, where he spent a week and met several times with Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

It is known that Mr Goukouni's current trip falls within the framework of negotiations initiated by some African capitals to prepare his return to Ndjamena. [passage omitted]

ZAIRE

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

AB151730 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1400 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 13 Apr [date as received] (AZAP) — Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Kinshasa on the evening of Monday, 13 April, for a 3-day official visit to Zaire at the invitation of the Executive Council. Mr D'Escoto said on arrival at Ngobila Beach that he was happy to be in Zaire again, a country he visited 18 years ago.

The Nicaraguan statesman said his current tour of Africa is aimed at expressing his country's solidarity with and gratefulness to African states that supported Nicaragua in its struggle for independence.

Asked whether his visit was a prelude to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zaire and Nicaragua, Mr D'Escoto said he would discuss the issue with his Zairian hosts, but he emphasized that the absence of diplomatic relations cannot be an obstacle to cooperation between the two countries, both members of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement.

BENIN

Soviet Military Team Visits Defense Staff

AB151107 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] This morning at the FAP [People's Armed Forces] Defense Staff Headquarters in Cotonou, the visiting Soviet Military delegation led by Major General (Novochesky) met with Beninese Army officials. On the Soviet side, the delegation included, among others, Brigadiers Jukov and (Martik), while on the Beninese side were Colonels Charles Bebada, chief of the FAP Defense Staff; Gaston Coovi, chief of staff of the National Defense Forces; Leopold Ahoueya, chief of staff of the Public Security Forces; and the heads of the various departments of the defense staff headquarters. After the meeting, Maj Gen (Novochesky) disclosed the purpose of his visit to the FAP Defense Headquarters and lauded the excellent military relations between the two countries:

[Begin recording in Russian with simultaneous translation into French] This visit falls within the framework of the itinerary established by our Beninese friends, particularly the chief of the FAP Defense Staff. It is in accordance with this itinerary that we met in his office today. We sincerely thank him for his kind invitation. Our bilateral cooperation concerns many sectors, particularly the political field. In the Soviet Union we greatly appreciate the support of our friend, Benin, for the Soviet Union's policy and Comrade Gorbachev's peace initiatives, particularly his initiatives on the liquidation of nuclear weapons to avert threats to peace. These initiatives are strongly supported by the Soviets.

President Mathieu Kerekou's visit to the Soviet Union, his meetings with Comrades Gorbachev and Gromyko, as well as the talks he held with them and other officials have given a new impetus to our bilateral cooperation in the political field and many others. In the military field, we have long-standing relations with our Beninese friends. The Soviet Union has always respected its commitments and assumed its responsibilities. [end recording]

A cocktail party has been hosted in honor of the members of the Soviet military delegation by the chief of the FAP defense staff, Comrade Charles Bebada. [passage omitted]

Soviet Trade Union Group Donates Equipment

AB160632 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A ceremony for the donation of equipment by the Federation of Trade Unions of Workers of State Institutions of the Soviet Union to the Fesyntrasad [Federation of Trade Unions of Workers of Administrative Services] took place this afternoon at the labor exchange headquarters in Cotonou. This ceremony falls within the framework of the visit being made to our country by the Soviet trade unionists.

The leader of the delegation, Comrade (Petrov Disiemkov), expressed great pleasure in participating in this symbolic ceremony and expressed the hope that the donated equipment would help improve the working conditions of the Fesyntrasad. He further stressed that this donation was the materialization of the cooperation existing between his trade union and its Beninese counterpart.

Receiving the equipment, on behalf of the Fesyntrasad, Comrade Wilfrid Honore Francegbe sincerely thanked the Soviet delegation for its very kind gesture. He expressed the hope that this permanent solidarity gesture will reinforce the Beninese union's capability of organizing, mobilizing, educating, and training the Fesyntrasad militants. Comrade Francegbe then assured the donors that the equipment would be used sparingly. The equipment includes books on the Soviets' experiences in the trade union sector, radio sets, and (?films) on trade unionism to add to the Beninese unionists' knowledge.

BURKINA FASO

Pro-Libyan Marches Mark U.S. Raid Anniversary

AB151152 Paris AFP in French 1110 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Ouagadougou, 15 Apr (AFP) — Several demonstrations of solidarity with the Libyan people, including a protest march by pupils of the Koranic schools of Ouagadougou, were held in Burkina Faso today, 15 April, the 1st anniversary of the U.S. raid on Tripoli, it was learned in the Burkinabe capital. Various mass movements, notably Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) and the women and peasants unions of Ouagadougou, participated in the march of the pupils of Koranic schools in front of the Libyan Cultural Center.

The municipal authorities, who organized the demonstrations, intended in this way to show, according to their invitation to the participants, (their) "friendship and (their) active solidarity with the Libyan people, as well as (their) fierce determination to fight imperialism."

Radio Recalls Air Raid

AB151555 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Peace- and justice-loving people recall that 1 year ago Tripoli and Banghazi, two Libyan towns, were cowardly bombed by the U.S. Air Force. This barbaric show of strength, far from serving the purposes of its authors, rather strengthened the struggling people who are fighting for their freedom and their dignity. More than ever, they have become convinced that they are not safe from imperialist aggressions. The U.S. raids, which were then condemned by Burkina Faso as an unacceptable show of strength, were a flagrant violation of international law and moral principles.

In a message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the comrade president of Burkina Faso stressed, quote, That show of strength, based on the most unacceptable pretexts, cannot demobilize the brotherly people of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, nor divert them from the ideals of peace, freedom, and independence that they have always upheld, unquote.

One year has already passed, but the world democratic community remembers the event. The objective for mobilizing the U.S. Air Force was clear: It was to assassinate the leader of the Libyan revolution under the pretext of fighting terrorism. But in the area of terrorist activities, we must realize that the United States has become famous for using force to intimidate and to try to make other peoples submit to their wishes. Certain dates remind us of its activities: In 1950, in Asia, the U.S. strike force invaded the DPRK; 1958, the U.S. force landed in Lebanon; 1961, U.S. military intervention in the Congo and the landing of U.S. mercenaries in Cuba; 1964, U.S. bombing of Vietnam; 1973, the United States helps Pinochet to seize power in Chile; and 1983, the U.S. forces invaded Grenada. And that is not all. Since the beginning of the Sandinista revolution, Nicaragua has been subjected continuously to U.S. aggression. Those are some events to show the genocide perpetrated by the modern U.S. Administration against peoples that are seeking political emancipation.

Today, 15 April, the anniversary of this barbaric attack, the Burkinabe people reaffirm their unflinching solidarity with the Libyan people. This afternoon, beginning at 1700, through 17 April, there will be a photo exhibition at the Libyan Cultural Center. The comrade high commissioner of Kadiogo Province invites all officials of popular revolutionary organs in Ouagadougou — CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], UFB [Union of Burkinabe Women], the pioneers movement, UNAB [National Union of Burkinabe Elders], socioprofessional organizations, and the religious bodies in Ouagadougou — to visit this exhibition.

GHANA

Solidarity With Libya Against U.S. Raids Noted

AB160759 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] An evening of solidarity with the people of Libya has been held in Accra to mark the first anniversary of the inhuman military raids on Tripoli and Banghazi. A message from the national secretariat of CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] was read by the special assistant to the political counsellor [for the CDR's], Mr Dan Abodakpi. The message noted that the world is engulfed in injustice, and that is perpetrated by imperialist powers through their cultural and economic relationships. It is important, therefore, to realize their evil designs, and try to depart from them if developing countries want true sovereignty and genuine independence.

The message called on leaders of developing countries to work for unity through concerted and positive efforts to defeat the enemy. The CDR National Secretariat said the U.S. raids on the two cities were a deliberate attempt by the Reagan administration to ensure that imperialism is obeyed. And it appealed to all peace-loving countries to do away with opportunism and arrogance, to bring peace to the world.

The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Ghana, Brother (Abdallah Bojaldin,) said the people of Libya are prepared to face further aggression by the imperialist powers. He said the raids were unprecedented, and a violation of human rights on a small country like Libya. Brother (Bojaldin) paid tribute to all progressive governments and international organizations which condemned the invasion, and said the Al-Fateh revolution in Libya will continue to pioneer all revolutions and offer help where necessary.

Other messages of solidarity condemning the raids were from the June 4 Movement, the National Islamic Brotherhood Club, the Democratic League of Ghana, and the 31st December Women's Movement.

Radio Commentary

AB152000 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Kwasi Amoako commentary]

[Text] The reasons the Americans gave for the attack on the two Libyan cities of Banghazi and Tripoli was that the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, was (?fueling) international terrorism and that it was the duty of the United States, as the peacekeeper of the world, to show Al-Qadhdhafi a lesson or two in order to discourage him from what they regard as his propensity towards terrorism in other countries.

But the truth about America's obsession concerning Al-Qadhdhafi goes far beyond the (?sea-darkening) of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro*, which provided America with the immediate cause, while the spate of hostage-takings in Lebanon provided it with a supportive cause.

The fact of the matter is that the Libyan revolution of 1 September 1969 came to question all previous assumptions of American power worldwide. Previously, it was considered unimaginable that a country of (?3) million people could stand up to America and demand American withdrawal from such facilities as the American-built and [words indistinct] Wheelus Air Force Base on Libyan soil. Wheelus base was the largest U.S. military base outside the United States, but the revolutionary government of Col Al-Qadhdhafi succeeded in getting the Americans to pack up and leave Wheelus base.

Giant American oil companies had established themselves in Libya. They drilled the very fertile Libyan oil fields and sent away the Libyan crude oil to the extent that the Libyans had to import petroleum products for their own use.

The revolution put an end to all that. The Libyans took over their oil fields from the Americans and started to drill the oil for their own use and for export. In no time, Libya became a rich country as beneficiaries of their oil resources and were able to consolidate their independence. These developments arising from the Libyan revolution have been a constant source of irritation for the Americans, and of friction between the United States and Libya.

The United States has always been conscious of its big parastatals, and for Libya, a country of only (?3) million people to have so successfully stood up the great America is something the United States has not been able to reconcile with, so that the

government uses the least opportunity and even invents causes to humiliate Libya and her leader, Col al-Qadhdhafi.

During the American air raid on Libya, it succeeded in destroying a few buildings and killing innocent civilians, but they also succeeded in destroying their own credibility in many parts of the world. In the Arab world for example, even those Arab leaders who have their reservations about Col al-Qadhdhafi and the revolutionary process that he is leading in Libya, quickly rallied round Libya after the American attack because they saw the attack on Libya as, by extension, an attack on the Arab homeland. And what is more, the popular impression the attack on Libya had confirmed that any country that refuses to accept American control or influence is regarded as an enemy country that deserves nothing but a hostile kind of relationship from the United States. The list of such countries is endless: Libya, Iran, Nicaragua, Angola, and we may add even our own country, Ghana.

But looking back in retrospect, the ultimate victor of the event of 15 April 1986 was Libya, not in terms of Libya's ability to respond to the American aggression, but in terms of the sympathy or show of support that he won from the rest of the international community.

The American objective of creating panic in Libya and causing dissent and revolt in the Libyan Armed Forces that would lead to the overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi was a dismal failure. Instead, the American raid drew the people of Libya closer to their regime and strengthened their resolve to stand up against the foreign aggressor.

Clearly, America came off very badly in that military adventure into Libya, both in terms of the achievement of objectives and that of rallying support from her Western allies for the cause she embarked on against Libya and Al-Qadhdhafi in particular.

The unfortunate thing, however, is that many innocent lives were lost in that misguided adventure. Those who died in that raid on Tripoli and Banghazi will forever be remembered every 15th day of April. They have been victims of irresponsible use of military power.

SENEGAL

Assembly Considers Bill To Dismiss Police

AB151415 Dakar PANA in English 1309 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Dakar, 15 Apr (SEN/PANA) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf has submitted to the National Assembly (Parliament) a draft law aimed at dismissing senior officers in the country's police force.

The law was read to the assembly in plenary session in Dakar this morning by its president, Dr Daouda Sow. The assembly, which has been holding a budgetary session since last week, was immediately adjourned till 16 hours GMT to enable its legislative commission to pronounce itself on the presidential law which is in conformity with the rules of procedure of the National Assembly.

The move follows the suspension Tuesday [14 April] of the country's entire police force to end public demonstrations organized by them since Monday.

The police have been protesting the sentencing to jail and fining of seven of their colleagues found guilty by court of torturing, leading to the death of a Senegalese in 1983.

Yesterday President Abdou Diouf dismissed his interior minister, Ibrahima Wone, replacing him with Jean Collin who will perform this duty cumulatively with his present function of minister of state and secretary general at the office of the president.

SIERRA LEONE

Last Two Coup Plotters Arrested in Sulima

AB151247 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 15 Apr (AFP) — The last two soldiers being sought following the 23 March coup attempt have been found and arrested in the town of Sulima, at the [words indistinct] the Navy, and Daniel Kaikai, a private in the Army, were taken to Freetown yesterday evening, it was added.

The Sierra Leonean authorities had offered a handsome reward to people who could provide information leading to the arrest of the two men who, according to the authorities, are reportedly implicated in the coup attempt last March.

ANGOLA

Van Dunem Briefs Envoys on Possible U.S. Talks

MB160626 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Minister of External Relations Afonso van Dunem Mbinda met with West European ambassadors accredited to the People's Republic of Angola in Luanda this afternoon. The meeting was expected to have dealt with the decision of the Angolan Government to resume official talks with the U.S. Government, which had been suspended following the abrogation of the Clark Amendment and the subsequent welcome in Washington of the Angolan terrorist ringleader.

Angola has, therefore, once again reaffirmed its firm goal of contributing to the relaxation of the prevailing tense situation in southern Africa while not allowing the interests of its working people to be put at stake or sacrificed. The Angolan Government has invited the United States to play the important role of mediator between Angola and South Africa. (?This, however,) is incompatible with U.S. interference in Angolan domestic affairs and other biased attitudes, namely the assistance it provides to South Africa's puppets. This assistance must end.

During the talks held in the Congolese capital on 6 April, the Angolan delegation, which was led by Minister of the Interior Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, informed the U.S. delegation led by Chester Crocker that the basis of negotiations between the interested parties, as proposed by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in November 1984, through the UN Secretary General, remains valid. This document is the fundamental basis of discussions to find a solution to the problem of Namibian independence and security and stability on the southern Angolan border.

Communique Outlines Conditions

MB150823 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Communique issued by the Ministry of External Relations in Luanda on 14 April]

[Text] The Angolan Government, within the framework of its foreign policy of peace and peaceful coexistence, has not spared any effort in its attempts to attain a just, honorable, and lasting solution to the problems directly affecting the southern African peoples, victims of aggression by the racist South African regime. In this context, an Angolan delegation led by Comrade Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues Kito, Angolan minister of interior, visited Brazzaville, Congo, at the invitation of his excellency, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the People's Republic of the Congo and OAU chairman. There, the Angolan delegation held informal talks on 6 April with a U.S. delegation led by Mr Chester Crocker. The two delegations discussed the possibility of reopening official talks, suspended since March 1986, and of preparing an agenda to [words indistinct]. The Angolan Government, in a March 1987 letter to the U.S. Administration, said it was not opposed to the renewal of official talks with the U.S. at a date and place to be agreed upon later.

Meanwhile, the Angolan Government has noted that the path to achieving peace and stability in southern Africa and to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 has been systematically blocked by the Pretoria regime through its aggression against Angola through the UNITA puppet bands. The Angolan side reiterated that the U.S. could play an important mediating role between the Angolan and South African Governments. The Angolan Government added that to undertake this role the U.S. should end its support for the puppets of the South African regime and, in addition, should stop meddling in Angolan internal affairs, thus ending hostile attitudes toward Angola.

The Angolan delegation affirmed that the forum for negotiations proposed to the respective parties by the president of the People's Republic of Angola through the UN secretary general in November 1984 remains valid and constitutes a fundamental basis for future talks in attaining a solution to Namibian independence based on UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 and to the need for peace and stability on Angola's southern border.

At the end of the talks, both parties agreed to continue official talks at a date to be set later via diplomatic channels. The Government of the People's Republic of Angola recalled that the decision to suspend negotiations with the American administration was caused by the repeal of the Clark Amendment by the American Government in July 1985 following the South African attempt to destroy the Malongo oil installations, where, ironically, dozens of American citizens might have died. Another important reason was the decision of the U.S. Administration to receive the ringleader of the Angolan terrorists in Washington and to give him not only direct diplomatic support but also financial and military support. That position was condemned by an OAU motion adopted at the 22d summit of that African organization.

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola, by committing itself to official talks with the United States, is expressing to Africa and the world its firm intention to contribute to the easing of the tense situation prevailing in southern Africa, a permanent source of threats against international peace and security. The Angolan Government, however, will not allow the interests of its working people to be threatened or jeopardized.

Dos Santos Links Cuban Withdrawal, Namibia

MB151452 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the close of the the Second Congress of the Youth of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [JMPLA] in Luanda on 14 April — recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on the importance of the JMPLA to Angola's revolution] The valuable presence of the Cuban internationalists in the People's Republic of Angola remains (?effective) because the reasons which made our government ask the Cuban Government to send its forces [words indistinct] have not yet disappeared. The problems experienced in southern

Africa, the effects of which (?are felt throughout the region and in our country) [words indistinct] if we do not resolve and remove the causes of the war which are at the root of the problem. For this reason, the resolution of the conflict in southern Africa necessarily includes the resolution of the apartheid problem in South Africa, the problem of Namibia's independence, and the (?cessation) of the policy of destabilization carried out by (?South Africa), especially against the Frontline States.

Without the [words indistinct] resolution of these problems, it (?would be) [word indistinct] and unrealistic to accept the complete withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from Angola. In an event, this is an issue which only concerns the Cuban and Angolan Governments. [applause] [passage omitted on good wishes to the JMPLA and slogans]

MOZAMBIQUE

U.S. Congress Delegation Arrives on Visit

MB151150 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation from the United States Congress Committee for Africa and Hunger is in Mozambique. The delegation, headed by (Adoa Garimonto) was met yesterday by the secretary general of the Organization of Mozambican Women, Salome Moiane. During their meeting the two sides exchanged views and problems facing women and problems of hunger.

Today they are expected to visit the greenzones of Maputo city and the private farms financed by USAID for Africa. The delegation will also tour the Beira Corridor in Central Sofala Province and Inhambane Gaza Provinces in the South of Mozambique.

SOUTH AFRICA

Arson Attacks Strand Railway Commuters

MB152046 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1942 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 15, SAPA — Thirteen coaches were burnt or damaged at eight railway stations in or near Johannesburg today in a wave of arson that left thousands of commuters stranded for hours.

Forty-seven coaches have now been damaged in the wave of attacks which began three days ago.

A spokesman for the Bureau for Information told SAPA tonight one train at New Canada was set alight, two at Braamfontein yard, one at Langlaagte, one at Croesus, three at Irene, two of Luipaardsvlei, two at Kaalfontein and one at Germiston.

The bureau spokesman said a train with a burning coach pulled into Germiston station at 16:15, but it was not known precisely where the arson occurred. He said they were trying to pin-point the area. All the attacks took place between 13:00 and 18:00 today.

At 13:20 a passenger train was set alight at New Canada, the two at Braamfontein at 16:36, Langlaagte at 16:09, Croesus 16:52, Oakmoor 16:45, Luipaardsvlei 17:45, it was not known what time the Kaalfontein attack occurred.

The bureau said at 16:50 three passenger cars were "damaged" at Irene. No further particulars were available.

Two passengers coaches were burnt out at Luipaardsvlei at 17:45 and at Kaalfontein two were burnt out.

At Oakmoor railway station 2000 blacks were dispersed by the South African Police using tearsmoke. According to police reports they were "dissatisfied at having to pay for tickets."

A spokesman for the Johannesburg Fire Department said fire engines rushed to Braamfontein, Langlaagte and Croesus near industria to extinguish the fires.

Rail traffic was brought to a standstill because the power supply was switched off to fight the fires.

Commuters reported the service was out of action until after 17:00. One reporter attempting to catch a train at the main Johannesburg Station at 4:15pm was told when he went to buy a ticket that services had been disrupted "by a power failure." Looking down the tracks from the main station he saw a fire at the nearby Braamfontein Marshalling yards and on investigating found two coaches burning. Trains were still not running when he left the station after 17:00.

A subsequent inquiry to the Johannesburg station met with the news that trains were running again, but no departure or arrival times could be given.

The Bureau for Information has confirmed that members of the security forces are guarding stations in Soweto after coaches were set alight at several stations there.

The arson over the past three days has been linked to the rail workers strike, which began five weeks ago.

Johannesburg-Soweto Restored

MB160814 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The train service between Johannesburg and Soweto is back to normal after 2 days of arson attacks on rail coaches by black radicals, which reduced the service to 80 percent of its capacity. More attacks were reported last night on suburban trains and a white woman and her baby were slightly injured. Last night's attacks bring to 52 the number of coaches damaged in arson attacks, but so far the South African Transport Services has not given an estimate of the damage.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

16 Apr Press Review

MB160750 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN Defends Curbs on Detainee Release Calls

"The curbs over protests concerning detainees were instituted in an attempt to stop a campaign involving mass demonstrations and sit-ins at police stations round the country," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 15 April. "Since such demonstrations, especially during the state of emergency, could have led to confrontation and violence, the government acted correctly." "In saying this, we emphasise that *The Citizen* has always been against detention without trial, and still is, but we accept that detentions are necessary under the emergency." The paper further says "Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other clerics thundered that they would defy the regulations." "No doubt he seeks martyrdom; the government should one day be happy to oblige him."

STAR on Detention Without Protest

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 15 April says that in his reaction yesterday to diplomatic protests to the ban on public calls for the release of detainees, Foreign Minister Pik Botha "demanded that envoys should say whether or not their governments were in favour of necklacing. Mr Botha's association of detention with necklacing is not altogether clear, but the combined ministerial statements appear to imply that every man, woman and child in detention is guilty of very serious crimes." "Before the newest regulations, opinions differed about the legality of calling for the release of detainees. This week, as church leaders were about to pray for the release of detainees, the position was 'clarified'. It became an offence to incite anyone to demand their release. Whether a call for release can be construed as incitement is another can of worms. The rowback is, however, part of the South African problem. Decades of unfettered power have convinced the authorities that they can do anything they like."

NP Receives Greatest Viewing Time on SABC

"A Rhodes University survey shows that the NP and the Government are being given 64 percent of the television time allocated to political parties, but propaganda is more subtle than divisions on the clock," says a second editorial on the same page. "Coinciding with the NP's emphasis on security and playing on the fears of white voters, the SABC led its main news bulletin four times out of seven with a security issue and devoted half of its Network programmes to security." "Behind the SABC's security blanket lie the real issues of the election and it is up to white voters to look for and consider them before voting on May 6."

BUSINESS DAY on Businessmen's Political Roles

"It is a great pity that the measured criticism of businessmen's role in politics voiced by the incoming chairman of JCI [Johannesburg Consolidated Investments], Murray Hofmeyr, has been presented — not least by this newspaper — as a tirade." "The period since President Botha's appalling 'Rubicon' speech has given ample demonstration that businessmen are as vulnerable as anybody else to political events, and that they have an equal right to defend their interests. There will always be businessmen who think they can best defend those rights by toadying, but the more far-sighted among them will perceive that their future depends upon devising a just order in this society. Sensible people will perceive, too, that smears and intimidation directed at businessmen are intended to serve other, non-business or anti-business, interests."

Business Should Empathize With Blacks

The same page carries an edited version of the chairman of JCI Murray Hofmeyr's speech at the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting. "It is a matter of fact business has been perceived both here and abroad to be extremely cautious about being seen to give support to individuals or causes which government has judged beyond the pale. Small wonder business leaders are perceived by many people of goodwill in SA and abroad as being prepared to tacitly condone government tactics — some motivated by narrow party political gain — and all of dubious morality." "It is important business should demonstrate a willingness to empathise with the views and position of black South Africans, based on real understanding and caring. If business is able to demonstrate a basic humanity, it will go a long way to bridge the gaps that have grown under apartheid."

SOWETAN on Railway Strike

"The South African Transport Services (SATS) insists on talking to its Black Trade Union and to a workers' committee at City Deep when the 13,000 striking workers are saying that the talks should be with their own union, the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union (SARHWU)." "The Government, more than any other employer, should be sensitive to the feelings of its workers. After all, it laid down the new laws on trade unions and its own officers are daily seeing to it that employers and unions follow the law. SARHWU has said it is prepared to allow management to conduct a secret ballot to determine which union has support, but SATS has cynically rejected this offer."

'Focus' on Zimbabwe Economy

The "Focus" column on the same page notes that there is growing concern over the management of the Zimbabwean economy and "criticism of the government's performance is growing." "Former Cabinet minister, Mr John Nkomo, a leading member of ZAPU, said the government's failure to consider natural disasters, such as the drought, the international economic situation and the politics in Southern Africa made nonsense of the forecasts in the five-year development plan." However, overshadowing immediate problems "is the ticking time-bomb of growing unemployment." Whites are also concerned with "the danger of being drawn into a racial war involving South Africa." "With thousands of troops committed to the defence of Mozambique, operations continuing against dissidents in Matabeleland and warlike threats from the MNR rebels on the Eastern border, the prospect of a conventional conflict with forces from across the Limpopo seemed daunting indeed."

BEELD Critical of U.S. Ambassador

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 15 April says: "Before Edward Perkins came to South Africa as U.S. ambassador he pledged goodwill toward all here. Yet he destroyed that good intention by sharply criticizing the new emergency regulations. He even attended a church service to

protest detention without trial." "If he wants to be a political critic then why does he not simply criticize the authorities and keep silent about incitement toward violence, intimidation and gruesome necklace murders?"

The editorial says "the ambassador should know that he is a guest in this country. He is someone who is supposed to convey messages from and to his government. He is not here to actively participate in the destruction of law and order."